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ABSTRACT

Results of a study documenting the Mexican American's unique Spanish dialectal expressions used in the barrios of San Antonio, Texas, and its surrounding areas are presented. The expressions included are those which were not recorded in the "Diccionario de la Real Academia Espanola" (19th Edition) or which were recorded therein but with different meanings. The glossary defines approximately 1,000 dialectal terms, idiomatic phrases, interjections, proverbs, maxims, and familiar sayings. Divided into three sections, the glossary reflects the language used by different age, social, and economic groups living in the study area. Section I includes all terms, archaic terminology, and words of Spanish American origin recorded or not in the "Diccionario." Section II provides locutions and idiomatic expressions which consist of two or more words whose grouping as a phrase has its own peculiar meaning. Section III includes proverbs, maxims, or familiar sayings of the study group. Using the Spanish alphabet, entries are alphabetically listed. Significance of the Spanish dialectal term is given in English. A sample sentence in Spanish and its English translation are provided. Phrases in Sections II and III are alphabetized according to one of the words in each phrase, using the following order of preference: noun, adjective, adverb, interjection, verb, and pronoun. (NQA)

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"... there is no such thing as good or bad, (correct or incorrect, grammatical or ungrammatical, right or wrong) language."

Robert Hall

THE SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE DIMENSIONS OF CURRENT MEXICAN AMERICAN DIALECTAL SPANISH

A GLOSSARY FOR THE HUMAN SERVICE PROFESSIONS

PART II

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This work is a distinct contribution to the education of persons practicing in the human service fields and to the Chicano community's struggle to reaffirm its unique bilingual-bicultural essence.

It is of particular benefit for those non-Spanish speaking practitioners wishing to establish a more direct understanding of the idiom of the Mexican American Spanish as spoken in the barrios. They will find that this Glossary can be a bridge to help close the gap that is so evident at present. Human service personnel who are somewhat well-versed in Spanish will discover a new mode of expression that is most valued by the people who live in the barrios.

This Glossary offers a practical reference of those expressions and words most likely to be encountered when communicating with the barrio residents. It is important to note that the entries in this book were complied by several expert Chicano practitioners. The authors' background in the Chicano environment and their intimate knowledge of their language and culture is evident in the expertise with which this work abounds.

It is with considerable satisfaction that this work is presented to our colleagues in the human service professions. We are confident that use of the Glossary will facilitate communication and result in more meaningful human service in the Chicano community.

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Each year, millions of dollars are being spent on social, health, mental health and other such human service programs for the purpose of providing services to the Mexican American community. However, most of these programs have been and will continue to be ineffective and the greater part of these funds will be wasted until their most critical inadequacy has been recognized. The failure of these programs can be directly attributed to their astonishing lack of the knowledge and understanding of the social and emotional significance of culture and, more particularly, language in the conduct of human affairs. Specialized bilingual and bicultural human services which utilize the unique linguistic and cultural dimensions of Chicanos are essential for effective service delivery. While most humanistic professions have recently recognized the existence of a unique Chicano culture, they have yet to fully consider and make good use of cultural variables in the planning, designing, and ultimate delivery of human services for the Chicano community.

Because of this recognized need to assist humanistic professions striving to become culturally accessible and compatible to the Mexican American's distinct Spanish-Indian-Mexican culture, this study was conducted to document the nature of the Chicano community's unique dialectal Spanish; examine the social significance and value dimensions of language, its place and function in the Chicano cul-

ture; and how the Chicano's own pressing needs have not only created and developed his own distinct mode of behavior, but also his unique patterns of dialectic self-expression.

This book then is Part II in a set of two publications reporting this study's findings. It provides a practical manual of the Spanish dialectal vocabulary and other unique expressions used in the barrios of San Antonio, Texas and its surrounding areas and which are not recorded in the "Diccionario de la Real Academia Española," 19th Edition (1970), or recorded therein but with a different meaning.

This treatise is not intended to be a complete, exhaustive linguistic study of the Spanish dialect used by Chicanos, for such would have required an intensive examination of the linguistic characteristics of the dialect along with a consideration of all the other different aspects of both the oral and written forms of barrio communication. It would have also been necessary to include a detailed study of the grammer, syntax, phonology and semantics of the language plus matter relative to language confrontation, cross-cultural influence and the continual process of acculturation. All this would have required specialists in linguistics to yield a particularized treatise, scarely understood by persons not professioned in the science of linguistics. There have been a number of recent publications which have been of little use to direct service practitioners because of their highly technical expose.

The intent of this Glossary then, is to provide human service professions with a practical manual of the dialectal Spanish spoken by Mexican Americans. Social workers, teachers, medical doctors, nurses, psychologists, lawyers, and other human service professions who are interested in increasing their understanding of and communication with the Mexican American people they professionally serve, will find the glossary most helpful in their work. The glossary can best serve practitioners as a reference manual to better understand communications received from Chicanos.

A word of caution regarding the use of the dialectal expressions in the glossary is in order. There are a number of vocabulary items whose indiscriminant use is discouraged. The non-native Spanish speaker should definitely always seek advice in this respect since all these expressions are context specific and unless used in the proper context and/or appropriate social environment, these expressions might prove offensive. It is advised that practitioners do not use these expressions in their communications with Chicano patrons unless the context is clearly understood or such expressions are initiated by clients without hesitancy or reservation.

This Glossary of approximately 1,000 dialectal terms, phrases, interjections and other such expressions, reflects a cross-section of the dialectal Spanish spoken in the study area and is not by any means an exhaustive documentation of same.

Part I of this set is a four-chapter book written by six widely experienced, (a diestra y siniestra), Chicano social workers and edited to a common style for continuity and coherence. Its contents present professional knowledge on the Chicano community's bilingual-bicultural essence with a comprehensive description of the dialectal characteristics of the language as spoken by Chicanos in San Antonio, Texas and its surrounding areas. Particular focus is placed on the important role the Chicano community's unique dialectal language plays in the social realm. The implications that this language consideration has for human service delivery are discussed to assist the reader to obtain an understanding of the necessity of bilingual communication skills for practicing in the barrio.

A synopsis of Part I is included in this book to review with the reader the social significance of language and the context within which language is examined. It is highly recommended that the complete set be obtained to combine the theoretical, cognitive elaboration of the language in Part I with the practice manual of the dialect in Part II for a comprehensive, gestalt view.

Ernesto Gomez

Gilberto Cerda

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THE SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE DIMENSIONS OF CURRENT MEXICAN AMERICAN DIALECTAL SPANISH. A GLOSSARY FOR THE HUMAN SERVICE PROFESSIONS

PART I

SYNOPSIS

ERNESTO GOMEZ and GILBERTO CERDA

Little attention has been given to the nature of the Mexican American's unique dialectal[1] language and the important role it plays in human behavior. The lack of American linguistis to provide accurate and reliable information about the language of the vast majority of Mexican Americans in the United States has caused Chicanos[2] to suffer the indignities of being described as people who are "linguistically disadvantaged" and/or "illiterate in two languages". Their language has been assigned such derogatory labels as "Tex-Mex," "Pachuquismo" and "Spanglish" and described as incorrect, ungrammatical and substandard to set it apart from both the "pure" Castillian Spanish and Oxford English languages.[3] These and many other such prejudicial views concerning the nature of the Mexican American dialectal language reveals the lack of sensitivity and depth in understanding the social and emotional significance of language in the conduct of human

affairs. The role of language in human behavior, particularly among Chicanos, as it reflects social beliefs and values of an existing cultural matrix serves as the theme for this abstract.

> Is it incorrect to say TRUJE, VIDE, ANSINA instead of TRAJE, VI, ASI?
> Is it wrong for people to use contrived terms such as FRAJO, LISA, BAISA instead of CIGARRILLO, CAMISA, MANO?
> Aren't PARQUEAR, TROCA, CHORCHA, WACHAR, SWICHE illiterate?
> Isn't it wrong to mix Spanish and English in utterances?
> Why do Mexican Americans insist on speaking Spanish?

These and other such questions concerning the correctness of speech and language of Mexican Americans are frequently raised. People almost always appear ready to "correct" Chicanos in their speech. NO SE DICE VIDE, SE DICE VI.. ¡NO HABLES COMO PACHUCO! SPEAK ENGLISH, YOU'RE IN AMERICA. People say that Chicano language is "bad", "wrong", "incorrect", "ungrammatical", "uneducated", "ignorant" or something else equally uncomplimentary. The result of such criticisms is humility, abasement, confusion and a sense of conflict within Chicanos (whose language is objected to) which

shakes the foundation of personal identity and security.[4] But such criticisms are not particularly raised to cause such stress and discomfort. People feel a drive to reach a level of excellence in their speech and preserve the purity of the language(s) they speak. Yet, the way in which the questions are answered will have certain implications which could, if properly understood and applied, produce a major improvement in understanding the essence and significance of the Chicano dialectal language and create better relationships between Chicano client systems and the human service professions[5] attempting to serve them.

Recognizing that there are books that contain rules for speaking and writing and that such standarization of language is necessary for an organized, intellectual society, it is important to keep in mind the context in which language is being examined in this publication. We are not concerned with the special and limited situation of a schoolroom where the primary concern is the text version of language. Rather, we are interested in examining the significance and utility of the Mexican American's language for enabling the human service professions to better serve the barrio.

These professions' primary concern for care and service should supercede any consideration for including, as part of the helping process, remarks or lessons to teach their clients textbook Spanish or English, particularly since such efforts often have adverse effects on relationships. The prime focus of human service professions should clearly be

set on meeting and working with the "client" where (s)he is, and the client is his essence, which is manifested through his language. In this light, our concern is with the langua e which Chicanos use, by choice, in their everyday communication and relations; and which Chicanos use for informal, ingroup, family, and in confidence interaction.[6]

The relative acceptance or rejection of speech in human communication does not ultimately depend on its inherent merit nor yet, on any official approval given it, but purely on whether its listeners like it or not and whether they will react favorably or unfavorably toward the person they hear using it. "Correct can only mean 'socially acceptable', and apart from this has no meaning as applied to language".[7] Therefore, the "social acceptability and hence 'correctness' of any form or word is determined not by reason or logic or merit, but solely by the hearer's emotional attitude towards it and emotional attitudes naturally differ from person to person from group to group, from social class to social class".[8] This is to say that the dialectal language spoken by Chicanos is socially acceptable and correct to the Mexican American and that the language spoken by personnel in the human service field may not be acceptable or viewed as correct by Chicanos. So then, as Robert Hall states, "there is no such thing as good and bad (or correct and incorrect, grammatical or ungrammatical, right or wrong) in language." There is only socially acceptable speech.[9]

Language needs to be viewed realistically and objectively since it af-

fects the way in which people learn to live and relate in his own particular culture, and, since culture in turn, defines the way in which people use their language.[10]

A most fundamental and contemporary view of the role of language is provided by Claus Mueller. He states:

> "Man's capacity to form symbols and words which represent phenomena of his external and internal worlds is his most distinguishable characteristic. In the process of discerning and decoding his environment, man creates symbolic systems or languages which structure and transform it. Words provide molds for concepts and thoughts, as well as for symbols that reflect beliefs and values."[11]

Of the many behavioral patterns and characteristics we learn from culture, language is by far the most important.[12] Language is a social necessity that provides us with the opportunity for integration and socialization into culture. It serves as vehicle for engaging in social interaction and a communication within the culture wherein the language was acquired and wherein one moves and functions.[13] Language is a most important part of human behavior, governed by tradition and culture.[14]

It conditions the individual to cultural patterns, and serves as an instrument that guides interpersonal behavior. Language is "essentially a means of incorporating the individual into an existing cultural matrix

and of guaranteeing his contribution to the needs and aspirations of the culture."[15] G. Granai notes, the symbolic linguistic expressions shared by a community of people serve as a means of socialization and create a social bond between the individuals and groups therein. The roles and social relations available in the community are transmitted and internalized through language.

Language, as does a culture, becomes internalized by individuals, affixing itself as an "internal censor" which mediates all experiences, verbal of himself and his environment. Once a language is internalized, there is no eradication or manipulation of it since the speaker of the language preserves the original meaning embedded in its symbols and signs.[17]

"Linguistically, it is important to acknowledge the primacy of language in the life of an individual or society; for language shapes how one views the world... According to psycholinguistic studies, human beings become committed to their culture through their language. Language is the key to culture."[18]

At the heart of the Chicano's bilingual-bicultural essence is his language. The Mexican American's dialectal language is the synthesis of the English and Spanish languages, producing a third language which provides Chicanos with all of the attributes of a language. It has a Spanish foundation, that is, dialectal language can be and is conjugated and in many forms still reflects aspects of early Spanish historical and cultural traditions and customs which were a legacy bequeathed to the early tejanos

and to others of the Great Southwest by the early Conquistadores and their indefatigable companions, the frailes misioneros.

The dialectal characteristics of the Chicano language may be cursorily described as follows:

A. Archaic Spanish Terms - These are terms which were used by Spaniards in the earlier years of Spanish settlement in America. Examples: Ansina, naiden, endenantes, truje, vide, etc.

B. Mexican Indigenous Spanish Terms - These are Spanish terms of Mexican indigenous origin which were borrowed from Mexican Indian's language. Examples: papalote, guajolote, petate, huacal, jacal, nixtamal. zacate, etc.

C. Spanish Terms - These are simply the inumerous Castillian Spanish terms. Examples: señor, que, tú, estar, etc.

D. Contrived or Invented Terms - These are terms invented by Mexican Americans and used widely. Examples: fila, frajo, lisa, baisa, tramaos, etc.

E. Hispanized English Terms - These are Spanish dialectal terms an English origin which have been hispanized.

Examples: "parquear" from "to park" "troca" from "truck" "chorcha" from "church" "wachar" from "watch"

F. English Terms - These are simply English terms for which the Spanish translation is not known and are used without alteration. Examples: driveway, swimming pool, night club, etc.

G. Literal Translations of English Terms - These are literal translations. Examples: "Dame una quebrada." from "Give me a break." "Yo realizo que está allí." from "I realize that he is there."

H. Abbreviated Speech - This is the usage of abbreviated terms in the speech context. Examples: "¿'on 'stá Juan?" from "¿En dónde está Juan?"

All of these dialectal characteristics and others are used in mixture resulting in a "Binary Linguistic Blending" in which the linguistic symbols of both languages are mixed in utterances using either language's syntactic structure. To illustrate, we turn to excerpts from a verbatim record of a young Chicana's conversation with a friend in which she utilizes the indiscriminate interposition of the two languages: "The language we speak no es entendido by anyone but us Chicanos.[19] "Ancina

es como hablamos, and I don't think que we should change for anyone." (Voy a parquear la troca en el driveway.) The following peom by Alberto Alturista is a further illustration of this unique binary linguistic blending:

Mis ojos hinchados
flooded with lagrimas
de bronce
melting on the cheek bones
of my concerns
razgos indigenes
the scars of history on my face
and the veins on my body
that aches
vomito sangre
y lloro libertad
I do not ask for freedom
I am freedom.[20]

Guadalupe Gibson, etc. al., most effectively describes Chicanos' speech in the following manner:

"Chicanos speak a colorful and colloquial Spanish in their homes with Spanish-speaking relatives, friends, and neighbors. With Anglos, Chicanos may speak English expressively....but they rarely speak of their feelings, emotions, or personal affairs. It is very common for Chicanos to switch from English to Spanish when the conversation shifts to a personal topic. The switch is without pause or hesitancy and in most instances is done unconsciously. Most Chicanos show a preference for Spanish. Many who seem withdrawn during a conversation in English become relaxed and articulate when expressing themselves in Spanish."[21]

The significance of communication in all types of human services is recognized. Communication is the essential instrumentality for the development of relationships with client systems. For human service professionals serving the Chicano community, bilingual communication skills, reflecting the unique dialectal Spanish language described here, is essential for effective communication. Without these skills, the professional is readily doomed to misunderstanding and ineptitude, and his ability for developing relationships is most seriously hampered.

Even though Chicanos may be able to speak and understand some English, they may not be comfortable in this second language especially when the communication relates to intimate and personal matter.[22]

"As language consensus of urban Chicano neighborhoods in the U.S. have shown, Spanish is used for informal, ingroup, family, in-confidence interaction; while English serves for communicagion with outsiders."[23] A recent study assessing the effect of language used in interviews with "schizophrenic" patients whose native tongue is Spanish clearly indicates that Spanish American patients are consistently rated as showing more pathology when interviewed in English. This result was attributed to the non-Spanish-speaking interviewer's inability to understand the clients.[24] In a similar setting, older Chicano clients expressed feelings of "ansiedad", "desesperación" and "humillación" in her struggle to communicate in English with her mental health worker. She described her interaction as being a superficial, "frontal relationship."

Also, it has been recognized by mental health practitioners that during periods of stress many people tend to regress and because of this regression the importance of the primary language becomes particularly significant when dealing with stress. They need the language which has affective meaning to them at the point of seeking emotional release and searching for understanding, comfort, and above all, help.[25]

What is being suggested here is "that if the language Chicanos speak shapes their thoughts, perceptions and view of the world..., "then knowledge about the nature and function of language ought to be a prerequisite of all (professionals) who interact with Chicanos."[26] This does not mean that only Chicanos can work with or help Chicanos but rather that knowledge and understanding of Chicano's unique language as it reflects social and cultural systems is essential for effective service to the barrio.

The importance of language and culture in understanding, regulating and examining human behavior cannot be overemphasized. Language provides Chicanos with a means of conducting the practical activities of life that incorporate the wisdom and experiences of previous generations. It provides them with an ideology that gives logical and emotional meaning to their whole life experience. It is firmly rooted in the personality of clients, often beyond conscious recognition and controls.[27] Thus criticism of client's language, or attempts to force a

change in it may be perceived as an attack on the integrity of the values that make life meaningful. In asking people to surrender their accustomed modes of behavior and speech and to question the rationale behind such behavior is to shake the foundation of personal identity and security. To not consider it in planning programs or in developing a treatment plan is equally damaging.[28]

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GUIDE TO THE GLOSSARY

The Spanish dialectal vocabulary and other linguistic expressions found in the "GLOSSARY" is a result of a study conducted by the Bilingual-Bicultural Teaching-Learning Center, Centro Del Barrio, at the Worden School of Social Service of Our Lady of the Lake University. The purpose of the study was to document the Mexican American's unique Spanish dialectal expressions as used in the barrios of San Antonio, Texas and its surrounding areas and which are not recorded in the "Diccionario de la Real Academia Española", 19th Edition, (1970), or recorded therein but with a different meaning.

A group of specially trained investigators indigenous to the study area were employed to gather and arrange the required data herein presented. The Glossary reflects a cross-section of the dialectal Spanish spoken in the study area and is by no means an exhaustive documentation of this dialect. We doubt seriously that there ever could be one, because language, (any form of language), is dynamic.... not static. Language constantly changes as new terms and phrases keep forever appearing and disappearing reflecting new dimensions, new discoveries, and different types of human interactions.

Special attention was given to document the language habits of a cross-section of residents in the study area. Language used by different age, social and economic groups living and functioning in this area are all reflected in the glossary.

The Spanish speaking investigators, in conjunction with the project's professional personnel, then proceeded to describe, define and catalogue the vocabulary and other dialectal linguistic expressions identified in accordance with the following general plan:

The "Glossary" is divided into three "Sections". Section I: Vocabulary; Section II: Locutions and Idiomatic Phrases; and, Section III: Proverbs, Maxims and Familiar Sayings.

Section I includes all terms which were not recorded in the "Diccionario de la Real Academia Española". 19th Edition, (1970), or recorded therein but with a different meaning. Also included are all archaic terminology, and any words of Spanish American origin, (of indigenous derivations), whether recorded or not in the Diccionario Académico.

Section II consists of locutions and idiomatic expressions not registered in the Diccionario Académico, or registered therein with a different meaning. These expressions consist of any two or more words whose grouping as a phrase has its own peculiar meaning.

Section III include proverbs, maxims, or familiar sayings of the study group not registered in the Diccionario Académico, or registered therein with a different meaning.

The Spanish alphabet was used when distributing the entries in the "Glossary"; that is, the Spanish letters "ch", "ll", "ñ", and "rr", are included when necessary. The English letter "w" has also been includ-

ed since several English words beginning with "w" have been incorporated into this dialect.

Also, the significance of the Spanish dialectal term was given in English; and, in order to facilitate understanding of the use of such dialectal word. A sample sentence in Spanish was used along with its English translation.

Although adequate definitions and explanations were given for Section III, no sample sentences were offered.

Concerning Section II and Section III, the items here have also been distributed in alphabetical order, but according to one of the words in each phrase following this order of preference: (1) noun, (2) adjective, (3) adverb, (4) interjection, (5) verb, (6) pronoun.

PHONETIC ALPHABET FOR GLOSSARY

The following is an outline of the Spanish pronunciation of each letter of the Spanish Alphabet. Though very sketchy, we hope it will prove useful to non-native speakers who wish to establish prompt, satisfactory communication.

THE VOWELS

The Spanish vowels are pronounced sharply, clearly, and distinctly. They are never slurred, or prolonged as in English when we say go-u, for go and my-e, for my.

Letter	Nearest English Equivalent	Spanish
a	father, ah!	casa, raza
e	let, effort	papel, mesa
i	ee in deep	silla, libro
o	or, for, order	ojo, rosa
u	oo in soon and also in too	puro, pluma

NOTE: The vowel "u" is silent when used in the following letter combinations: que, qui, que, qui. The dieresis may be used only in the last two instances so as to indicate pronunciation of the "u": qüero, lingüística.

THE CONSONANTS

Letter	Nearest English Equivalent	Spanish Examples
b	boy, benefit	banco, saber (initial b, lips closed, in other cases lips open, breath passes.)
c		
(before a, o, and u)	cat, cap	cama, cuna
(before e and i)	sin, celebrate	cinto, veces
d	somewhat like th in this and they and d in day	andar donde (inter-vocalic d tongue will barely touch the upper teeth, breath passes.)
f	fall, far	fama, flor
g		
(before a, o, and u)	game, go	gata, gorra
(before e and i)	his, her	gigante, gelatina

h (silent)	—	hasta, ahora
j	he, hello!	lejos, dije
k (used only in a few foreign words, gu takes its place in regular Spanish)	cap, kite	kilo, kilómetro
l	let, lend	alto, elefante (tip of tongue touches upper ridge.)
ll	you, yellow	silla, rodilla
m	mother, more	mesa, María
n	no, never	nada, nunca
ñ	as ny in canyon and ni in onion	señora, niña
p	poor, push	pared, piso
q	as c in cap	¿qué? quince (q is only used in

		combination with u, and only in que and qui.)
r	(no English equivalent, closest is the tti in petticoat.)	pero, para
	(initial r is harsher)	roto, rata
rr	(no English equivalent, a thrill of three or four flaps of the tongue against the upper ridge. A difficult sound, requires practice.)	perro, tierra Barrera
s	sister, salad	sala, este
	also as s in rose	desde, asno
t	to, tomato	tinta, patio (tongue against inside of upper front teeth.)
v	volume	veinte, cueva (see letter b for tongue position.)

w	war, water	wachar, waino
x	as s in start	extremo, extrano
		(before consonant)
	(as ks before a vowel)	examen, exacto
y	yes, yellow	ya, playa
z	as s in sat	zapato, choza

(the Castillian pronunciation for z and c are never used here.)

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE GLOSSARY

m	masculine noun
f	feminine noun
m. pl	masculine plural noun
f. pl	feminine plural noun
m. y f	masculine and feminine
adj	adjective
prep	preposition
tr	transitive verb
r	reflexive verb
interj	interjection
adv	adverb

SECTION I

VOCABULARY

SECTION I

VOCABULARY

-A-

abril, m. A year, usually refers to a year's jail sentence.

Me dieron un abril en el condado.

I got a year's jail sentence in the county jail.

¡abusado!, interj. Watch out! Careful! Take precaution.

¡Abusado! ¡Ay viene el policía!

Watch out! There comes the police!

abusado (agusado), -ada, adj. Describes a person who is clever, smart, to the point of taking advantage of someone or preventing others from taking advantage of him.

El muchacho es muy abusado y no le pasará nada.

The young man is very clever and nothing will happen to him.

aca, prep. (Spanish a casa de.) To the home of.

Fué aca Juan.

He went to Juan's home.

(See enca.)

acauboyado, adj. (Only in masculine.) Dressed up like a cowboy, and trying to act like one or assuming the manners and dress of a cowboy.

Tá estás bien acauboyado.

You have begun looking like a cowboy.

acelerar, tr. (From English to accelerate.) To step on the gas pedal of an automobile; to accelerate or speed up the motor.

Hay que acelerar el carro para oír como suena.

-A-

We need to accelerate the car in order to hear how it sounds.

(See rumbar.)

achantarse, r. To get married.

¿Quién va a achantarse antes de diciembre?

Who is getting married before December?

afanadora, f. Worker who does cleaning in a hospital.

Dile a la afanadora que limpie el cuarto.

Tell the cleaning lady to clean the room.

afrentoso, -osa, adj. Despicable, ugly, describes a person difficult to be around with.

¡No seas tan afrentoso!

Don't be so ugly!

agarrado, -ada, adj. Stingy, tight with one's money.

Es muy agarrado. No quiere pagar por las bebidas.

He is very stingy. He doesn't want to pay for the drinks.

(See codo, canuto.)

agringado, -ada, adj. (From gringo) A Mexican American who tries to follow the ways and customs of the Anglo Americans.

Ese político Chicano está bien agringado.

That Chicano politician has become very Anglo Americanized.

(See anglosijado.)

¡agua!, interj. Watch out! Careful!

¡Agua! ¿No ves que aquí estoy usando el excusado?

Watch out! Don't you see I'm using the restroom?

-A-

(See aguas, truchas, al alba, águila.)

¡aguas!, interj. Be careful! Look out!

¡Aguas! Vete pronto.

Look out! Go away, quickly!

(See truchas, al alba, águila, agua.)

¡águila!, interj. Be careful! Watch out!

¡Aguila! ¡El carro viene muy aprisa!

Watch out! The car is coming at a high rate of speed!

(See truchas, al alba, agua, aguas.)

¡aguita!, interj. Take care! Careful!

¡agüita! ¡Hay viene el policía!

Careful! There comes the police!

(See agua, aguas, truchas, al alba.)

agüita, m. A person who is continuously bothering someone; a pest.

Es un agüita ese vato.

That guy is a pest.

aguitarse, r. To feel low, depressed, frustrated, tired, exasperated.

No te agüites con la situación.

Do not get depressed with the situation.

aguzado (abuzado), -ada, adj. A person who is clever and smart to the point of taking advantage of someone else or not allowing anyone to take advantage of him.

Ponte aguzado para que puedas ganarles.

Get smart so that you can beat them.

-A-

aigre, m. [Spanish aire.] Air, wind.

Hace mucho aigre hoy.

It is very windy today.

aigro, m. A year.

Dentro de un aigro podremos hacer el viaje.

Within a year we will be able to take the trip.

alambre, m. A message; information; a notice; a telephone call.

Me cayó el alambre que te casaste.

I received the message that you had gotten married.

alineado, - ada, adj. Well dressed; looking sharp.

¿Porqué andas tan alineado si no vas a ir al casamiento?

Why are you so dressed up if you are not going to the wedding?

alivianarse, r. To behave; to get yourself on the ball; to get with it.

Tenemos que alivianarnos si queremos hacer algo para mejorar la situación.

We need to get with it if we want to better the situation.

[See alividnate.]

¡alividnate!, interj. Behave! Calm down! Be cool!

Alividnate, o te pasa algo!

Calm down or something will happen to you!

amá, f. [Spanish mamá.] Mother, mama.

Amá, ¿dónde están mis zapatos?

Mother, where are my shoes?

[See apá.]

-A-

amarillo, m. Chicken egg.

Dame unos amarillos con jamón.

Give me some ham and eggs.

(See blanquillos.)

amensado, -ada, adj. 1. Condition of a person who finds it hard to understand; stupid; ignorant. 2. Influenced in a negative way, brainwashed.

1. No quiere admitirlo pero don Pedro está bien amensado acerca de ese asunto.

He won't admit it but don Pedro is quite ignorant regarding that matter.

2. En vez de educado salió bien amensado del colegio.

Instead of increasing his education, he gained greater ignorance.

anglosijado, -ada, adj. Anglicized, acting like an Anglo, or using the customs of an Anglo.

Muchos piensan que necesitan estar anglosijados para tener éxito en los Estados Unidos.

Many feel that you need to become Anglicized in order to be successful in the United States.

(See agringado.)

anque, conj. (Spanish aunque.) Although, though, notwithstanding, nevertheless, even though.

Necesitamos examinar el trabajo bien, anque sepamos de que se trata.

We need to examine the job well, even though we may

know what it's all about.

apá, m. (From Spanish papá.) *Father, daddy.*

Dile apá que no voy a estar en la casa hoy.

Tell father that I will not be home today.

(see amá.)

apapachar, tr. 1. *To spoil, especially a child.* // 2. *To cater or to please someone excessively.*

1. *No es bueno apapachar a los niños.*

It is not wise to spoil children.

2. *Algunas esposas apapachan a sus maridos.*

Some wives cater to their husband's every wish.

aparo, m. *An armed robbery.*

Hubo un aparo en la cantina anoche.

There was an armed robbery at the bar last night.

aplastarse, r. *To sit down.*

¡Aplástate, y no te levantes!

Sit down, and don't get up!

arquiarse, r. *To vomit.*

Me dan ganas de arquiarme cuando pasa eso.

It makes me feel like vomiting when that happens.

arranques, m. pl. *Violent sudden comments made without thinking.*

Tiene unos arranques muy locos.

He is rather sudden and violent in his speech.

arrumbado, -ada (arrumbao) adj. *Flung, cast or thrown aside.*

Juanito tiene todos sus juguetes arrumbados.

Juanito has all his toys scattered around.

-A-

(See arrumbar.)

arrumbar, tr. To cast, throw, to fling aside.

Tan pronto como llega, arrumba sus libros sobre la mesa.

As soon as he arrives, he throws his books on the table.

(See arrumbado.)

azonzado, -ada, adj. A temporarily dazed mental condition specially after a blow or as a result of certain critical occurrences.

El accidente lo dejó azonzado.

The accident left him dazed.

atochar, tr. (From English touch.) To touch.

Atocha la estufa a ver si está caliente.

Touch the stove to see if it is hot.

(See tochar.)

aventarse, r. To really make a good impression. To do something especially well. To excel.

Es muy aventado el vato. ¡Te aventaste!

That guy does things specially well. You did excellently well!

aventón, m. When asking for a short ride in a car.

Dame un aventón al centro.

Give me a ride downtown.

avusado, -ada, adj. Alert, smart, clever, on the ball.

El es muy avusado y no lo van a hacer tonto.

He is very smart and they can't fool him.

(See abusado, agusado.)

-A-

ay. adv. (From Spanish allí.) There.

Ay está en la mesa.

There it is on the table.

azotar, intr. To pay off.

El que pierda esa apuesta tendrá que azotar.

Whoever loses the bet will have to pay off.

-B-

bacilar, intr. To flirt, to play around.

Deja de bacilar y ponte a trabajar.

Stop playing around and get to work.

(See vacilar.)

baica, m. (From English bicycle.)

Mi baica amarilla me costó cien pesos.

My yellow bicycle cost me one hundred dollars.

(See biciburra.)

baisa, f. The hand.

Mi baisa me está doliendo.

My hand is hurting.

baisón, m. (From English bus.) The bus.

Toma el baisón en la calle Flores.

Take the bus on Flores Street.

(See buso, busón.)

banca, f. (From English bank.) The bank, an establishment for receiving, keeping and lending money.

-B-

En esa banca tengo mi dinero.

I have my money in that bank.

barra, f. (From English bar.) 1. Refers to a bar in a lounge or "cantina". // 2. A crowbar or lever.

1. Estábamos en la barra pistiando.

We were drinking at the bar.

2. Siempre cargo una barra para defenderme.

I always carry a crowbar to defend myself.

barrio, m. Chicano community, neighborhood; geographical areas where Chicanos reside.

La gente del barrio necesita muchas cosas para competir con el Anglo.

The people of the Chicano community need a lot of things in order to be able to compete with the Anglo.

barro, m. A dollar.

¿Tienes un barro contigo?

Do you have a dollar with you?

(See bola.)

basil, m. 1. joke. // 2. A lot of fun.

1. Lo que estamos haciendo es puro basil.

What we are doing is a big joke.

2. La clase de ayer fué mucho basil.

Yesterday's class was a lot of fun.

bate, m. (From English bat.) The baseball bat.

Usa el bate pesado para que le pegues a la pelota mejor.

Use the heavy bat so that you can hit the ball better.

bato (vato), m. A guy, a friend, a down-to-earth young man.

El bato es mi amigo y viene mañana.

The guy is my friend and is coming tomorrow.

(See chavo, chavalo, chavalón.)

biciburra, f. Bicycle.

¿Qué tanto te costó la biciburra?

How much did your bicycle cost?

(See baica.)

bil, m. (From English bill.) 1. The bill, the account. // 2. Paper currency of any amount.

1. El bil que nos dieron por la comida está muy alto.

The bill for the meals is too high.

2. ¿Tiene feria de un bil de cinco?

Do you have change for a five dollar bill?

bilear, intr. (From English to bill.) To write the amount of the account owed on paper.

Esa gente no puede pagar y nos dijo que les biliáramos.

Those people can't pay and they said for us to bill them.

(See bil.)

bironga, f. Beer.

La bironga está bien fría.

The beer is real cold.

(See birria.)

birria, f. Beer.

Me tomé una birria después del trabajo.

I drank one beer after work.

(See bironga.)

blanquillo, m. Egg, chicken or bird egg.

Los blanquillos están en la bolsa.

The eggs are in the bag.

(See amarillo.)

bloaut, m. (From English blowout.) A blowout in a car tire.

Tuvimos un bloaut en el camino de Austin.

We had a blowout on the trip to Austin.

bloque, m. (From English block.) A city block.

Vivo tres bloques de aquí.

I live about three blocks from here.

(See cuadra.)

bocachica, m. One who refuses to eat more.

No seas bocachica y come más.

Don't be so "close mouth" and eat more.

bodoque, m. 1. A large mouthful of food. // 2. Things bundled up in large amounts.

1. Traía un bodoque en la boca.

He had a mouthful of food.

2. Las garras estaban hechas en bodoque.

The rags were bundled up.

bogla, m. (From English burglary.) Burglary.

Hicimos un bogla anoche.

We committed a burglary last night.

¡bóitelas! interj. There you are! See there! I told you so! My gosh!

¡Bóitelas! ¡No lo sabía!

My gosh! I didn't know it.

bola, f. A dollar.

Traje una bola para la comida.

I brought a dollar for lunch.

(See barro.)

bolillo, m. A small French loaf of bread.

Compramos media docena de bolillos.

We bought half a dozen small French loaves.

bolillo, -illa, m. y f. Any Anglo American.

El bolillo se sigue portando como si supiera lo que estamos diciendo.

The Anglo American keeps on pretending that he understands what we are saying.

(See gabacho, güero, hüero.)

bombo, -ba, adj. Tired.

Me siento muy bombo.

I feel very tired.

bómper, m. (From English bumper.) The bumper of a car.

El bómper del carro está muy grande en este modelo.

The bumper of the car is very big on this model.

bonche, m. (From English bunch.) 1. A bunch. // 2. A group of people.

1. Traigo un bonche de centavos.

   I've got a bunch of pennies.

2. El bonche de muchachos está en la esquina.

   The group of boys is at the corner.

borlo, m. A party, any exciting activity where there is a lot of noise and confusion.

Hubo mucho borlo en la fiesta.

There was a lot of noise at the party.

borlote, m. 1. A lot of noise, disturbance, confusion. // 2. A party.

1. Hubo much borlote en la junta y no se decidió nada.

There was a lot of noise and confusion at the meeting and nothing was decided.

2. ¿Fuiste al borlote de anoche enca María?

Did you go to the party at María's last night?

borregos, m. pl. False rumors.

El Pedro siempre trae borregos.

Pedro is always carrying false rumors.

bote, m. Jail.

Metieron al bote a José.

They put José in jail.

brecas, f. pl. (From English brakes.) The brakes of a car.

Tengo que reparar las brecas del automóvil.

I have to repair the car's brakes.

brillo, m. (From English brilliantine.) Hair dressing.

Siempre uso brillo en el pelo.

I always use hair dressing on my hair.

brocha, f. (From English brush.) 1. Hair brush or paint brush. // 2. Mustache, beard.

1. Préstame tu brocha para pintar la casa.

Lend me your brush to paint the house.

2. Va córtate esa brocha, está muy grande.

Trim your mustache, it's too long.

(See brochar.)

brochar, tr. (From English to brush.)

Voy a brochar mi saco.

I'm going to brush my coat.

¡bújule!, inter. 1. Term used to express dissatisfaction, frustration, astonishment, disappointment, etc.; Doggone it! // 2. Gosh! Golly! Gee whizz!

1. ¡Bújule! Se me olvidó tu cumpleaños.

Doggone it! I forgot your birthday.

2. ¡Bújule! Apenas comenzaste a trabajar y ya te cansaste.

My Gosh! You just started working and you are already tired.

(See újule.)

busgo (buzgo), m. One who eats too much.

¿No lo has visto comer? Es un busgo.

Have you seen him eating? He eats very much.

buso, m. (From English bus.) The bus.

El buso viene en quince minutos.

The bus will arrive in fifteen minutes.

(See baisón, busón.)

busón, m. (From English bus.) The bus.

Se me pasó el busón.

-B-

I missed my bus.

(See buso, baisón.)

-C-

cachas, f. pl. *The seat, the behind, the rump.*

¡Qué buenas cachas tiene!

She certainly has a nice rump!

(See chapete.)

cachuchón, m. *Police officer.*

Ay viene el cachuchón en un carro particular.

There comes the policeman in a private car.

(See also scout, perro, marrano, el hombre.)

cadena, f. *A group of prisoners on their way to prison, as they always move in a single file it is said to be a chain.*

El Pablo y yo íbamos en la misma cadena.

Pablo and I were in the same group of prisoners.

cáfiro, m. (From Spanish café.) *Coffee.*

Necesito una taza de cáfiro en las mañanas.

I need a cup of coffee in the mornings.

(See cófiro, guariche, huariche.)

¡caile!, interj. (From Spanish caer.) *Approach him, or hit him for money or for a favor.*

¡Caile al político por un favor!

Hit the politician for a favor!

calar, intr. 1. *To try on something like clothes, shoes, etc.*

-C-

// 2. To try to get results. // 3. To test a watermelon by cutting a piece off to see if it is ripe.

1. A ver, cálate los pantalones.

   Let's see you try on the pants.

2. Call al jefe pero no tuvo resultado.

   I tried to convince the boss but with no results.

3. Quiero que me cale la sandía, señor.

   I want you to test this watermelon to see if it is ripe.

calcos, m. Shoes.

Me compré calcos nuevos.

I bought new shoes.

(See derechos.)

caleta, m. A hillbilly, a boor, a bore.

El parece un caleta.

He looks like a bore.

calo, m. A nickel, five cent piece.

Hace tiempo que con un calo compraba uno muchos dulces.

Once we could buy a lot of candy for five cents.

(See nicle.)

calse, m. (From Spanish calcetines.) Socks.

Mis calses son rojos.

My socks are red.

(See calsetas, tubos.)

calsetas, m. pl. (From Spanish calcetines.) Socks.

No tengo calsetas.

I don't have any socks.

-C-

(See calse, tubos.)

callo, m. Scar tissue or callous (callus) created by numerous needle injections.

El es un adicto porque tiene callos en los brazos.

He is an addict because he has calluses on his arms.

camellar, intr. To work, usually laborer's work.

Tenemos que ir a camellar.

We have to go to work.

(See jalar.)

camello, m. Work, a job.

Tiene un camello muy cochino.

He has a very dirty job.

(See jale.)

cancar, tr. 1. To deceive. // 2. To give a blow on the head with the knuckles.

1. Mucho cuidado porque ese bato te va a cancar.

Be careful because that guy is going to make a fool out of you.

2. Su hermano le cancó.

His brother rapped him on the head.

cancón, m. A deception.

Esa movida fué un cancón de su parte.

That move was a deception on his part.

canica, f. Skull, brains, head.

No tienes canicas.

You do not have any brains.

-C-

cantina, f. The tavern, saloon, beer joint.

La cantina no cierra en toda la noche.

The tavern is open all night.

cantón, m. House.

Vamos a mi cantón.

Let's go to my house.

cantonearse, r. To get married.

Voy a cantonearme antes de junio.

I am going to get married before June.

(See achantarse.)

canuto, -uta, adj. Stingy, tight with one's money.

El no te va a comprar nada porque es muy canuto.

He is not going to buy you anything because he is very stingy.

(See agarrado, codo.)

carabina, f. The "rig" or hypodermic needle or a substitute apparatus that addicts use to inject themselves.

Prestame la carabina para tirarme.

Lend me the rig so that I can inject myself.

(See herre.)

carajo, -aja, adj. 1. Impish, devilish. // 2. Devious, untrustworthy. // 3. As an interjection, expresses surprise or frustration.

1. Muchacho carajo, ¿Qué estás haciendo?

You little devil, what are you doing?

2. Es un hombre muy carajo.

-C-

He is a very untrustworthy man.

3. ¡Carajo! Me corté.

Darn it! I cut myself.

(See carancho.)

carancho, - ancha, adj. Describes a person to be reckoned with, tricky, sly, astute.

No te confíes de él porque es muy carancho.

Don't trust him because he is tricky.

(See carajo.)

carga, f. Heroin.

¿Traes carga para vender?

Do you have any heroin to sell?

(See tecata, chiva.)

carnal, -ala, m. y f. 1. Brother, sister. // 2. Extremely close friend. // 3. Someone of same ideology.

1. Chuy es carnal mío.

Chuy is my brother.

2. Juan y yo somos tan amigos que nos llamamos carnales.

Juan and I are so close, we consider ourselves brothers.

3. Somos carnales del movimiento.

We're brothers in the movement.

carro, m. (From English car.) A car, automobile.

Me compré un carro.

I bought myself a car.

(See carrucha.)

carrucha, f. A car, automobile.

-C-

¿Cuánto te costó tu carrucha?

How much did you pay for your car?

(See carro.)

catazo, m. A blow, specifically with fist.

Le dió un catazo al profesor.

He gave the professor a blow with his fist.

(See cato, catear, catorrazo.)

catear, tr. To hit, to give blows, to beat up, specifically with fists.

Yo voy a catear a ese vato porque se lo merece.

I am going to give that guy a beating because he deserves it.

(See catazo, cato, catorrazo.)

cato, m. A blow, specifically with fist.

Te voy a meter un cato.

I am going to give you a blow.

(See catear, catazo, catorrazo.)

catorrazo, m. A blow or a slap in the face.

El le metió un catorrazo la semana pasada.

He gave him a slap in the face last week.

(See cato, catazo, catear, riatar, riatiza, riatazo.)

el city, m. The city jail.

¿Cuánto tiempo tiraste en el city?

How long were you in the city jail?

(See el condado, el estado, la federal.)

clica, f. (From English clique.) A clique, a small exclusive

-C-

circle of people.

Juan pertenece a mi clica.

Juan belongs to my clique.

coco, m. A turn coat, a traitor. (With special reference to Mexican Americans who turn against their own people.)

"Brown on the outside, white on the inside."

Ese señor que fué elegido a la mesa directiva es un coco.

That man who was elected to the board of directors is a turn coat.

codo, adj. Stingy, tight with one's money.

Es muy codo, no quiere gastar dinero.

He is very tight, he doesn't want to spend any money.

(See tacaño.)

cófiro, m. (From English coffee.) Coffee.

Yo no quiero cófiro.

I don't want any coffee.

(See cáfiro, guariche, huariche.)

coger, tr. To have sexual intercourse. To make love.

¡Cógetela!

Make love to her!

(See chingar, chapetear.)

el condado, m. The county jail.

Encerraron a Riche en el condado.

Riche got locked up in the county jail.

(See el city, el estado, la federal.)

conexión, f. The connection for trafficking drugs illegally.

-C-

Tienen que ir a la conexión temprano.

They need to go make the connection early.

copetear, *intr.* To bother in an extreme manner.

Ya me estás copeteando mucho.

You're bothering me very much.

(See tener hasta el copete.)

copetón, -ona, *adj.* Rich, affluent.

Ella pertenece a la clase copetona.

She belongs to the affluent class.

corre, *f.* (From English correctional.) The correctional institute.

Mandaron al Bayo a la corre.

El Bayo was sent to the correctional institute.

correctar, *tr.* (From English to correct.) To correct, to check.

El estudiante tiene que correctar su lección.

The student has to correct his paper.

corredor, *m.* (From Spanish correr.) The person who runs (or delivers) drugs.

Necesitamos un corredor para la noche.

We need someone to deliver the drugs tonight.

corta, *f.* Money.

¿Cuánta corta traes?

How much money do you have?

costiar, *int.* To refrain from all activities and exclusively enjoy being on drugs.

No se me hizo con la chava, solo que me puse a costiar.

I wasn't able to score with my girl so I decided to just

-C-

enjoy being high on drugs.

(See andar costiando.)

crepa, f. The toilet, bathroom, restroom.

Ya se nos acabó el papel de la crepa.

We have run out of toilet paper.

(See escusado, cuarto de baño.)

cuadra, f. A city block.

Yo vivo en la esquina de la cuadra.

I live on the corner of the block.

(See bloque.)

cuate, m. A shot gun (double barrel).

El cuate está detrás del asiento.

The shot gun is behind the seat.

cuate, -ata, m. y f. 1. A friend, a buddy. // 2. Twins.

1. Es mi cuate y lo quiero mucho.

He's my buddy and I like him very much.

2. Esos muchachos son cuates.

Those two boys are twins.

cubetear, intr. 1. To drink. // 2. To get drunk.

1. Préstame la taza para cubetear agua.

Lend me your cup so I may drink water.

2. Anoche me cubetié en el party.

I got drunk at the party last night.

cuca, f. (From English cook.) Bottle cap used for cooking heroin.

¿Dónde está la cuca?

Where is the bottle cap for my heroin?

-C-

cucaracho, m. A person coming from and identifying with the barrio.

Ese vato es cucaracho.

That guy is from the barrio.

(See peluza, indiada, palomilla.)

cuete, m. Gun, rifle.

Esa persona siempre carga cuete.

That person always carries a gun.

cuica, f. A prostitute.

Esa ruca es cuica.

That woman is a prostitute.

(See puta, huiza, josla, talona.)

cuico, m. 1. A homosexual or queer. // 2. A sissy or scary cat.

1. El Porcha se porta como cuico.

El Porcha acts like a queer.

2. Juan se portó como un cuico.

Juan behaved like a sissy.

(See chiruco, joto, fruta, puto, piruco, huizo, manflor.)

cuira, f. (From English quarter.) A quarter, a 25 cent piece.

Oye, dame una cuira.

Hey, give me a quarter.

culearse, r. To cop-out, to go back on one's word.

Todos van a culearse porque no son machos.

They're all going to cop-out because they are not men of their word.

culero, m. A cop-out, a son of a bitch, a sort of "cabrón".

No me cae, es un culero.

-C-

I don't like him, he's a son of a bitch.

(See culearse.)

cura, f. Refers to the small amount of heroin that is shared by one addict with another which is not enough to get him high on, but is enough to keep him from having withdrawal symptoms.

El vato necesita la cura.

The guy needs a little fix to keep him from having withdrawal symptoms.

(See enseñar la cura.)

-CH-

¡chale!, interj. No!

¿No has visto los botones que dicen "chale con el draft"?

Have you seen the buttons that say "no with the draft"?

(See nel, nelson.)

chamaco, m. y f. A young child, a youngster, an adolescent.

Esta chamaca va a trabajar conmigo.

This young girl is going to work with me.

chamba, f. Job, position, any type of work, usually some small type of employment.

¿No has conseguido chamba para tu esposa?

Have you found a job for your wife?

chambiar, intr. To work.

Tu necesitas ponerte a chambiar.

You need to get down and start working.

-CH-

(See jalar.)

chambón, -ona, adj. 1. This is said to describe a person who does not do any job efficiently. // 2. Type of low grade work done.

1. Es una persona muy chambona para trabajar.

   He is a person who does a very poor grade of work.

2. Siempre hace un trabajo chambón.

   His work is always of low caliber.

chamorro, m. Calf of the leg.

Tienes chamorros grandes.

You have large calves.

chamorrudo, -uda, adj. A person with big or muscular calves.

Mira ese niño que chamorrudo.

Look at that child, what big calves he has.

chamusquiar, tr. 1. To win, to beat someone in some activity, to beat someone up. // 2. To sponge off, getting something for nothing, to live off of someone else.

1. Lo chamusquiaron en el baile.

   They beat him up at the dance.

2. Le gusta mucho chamusquiar porque no quiere trabajar.

   He doesn't like to work so he lives off of others.

chancla, f. Dancing, to dance.

Me gusta la chancla.

I like to dance.

chanclazo, m. Dancing.

Me gusta el chanclazo.

-CH-

I like dancing.

chanclear, *intr.* To dance.

Tengo ganas de chanclear, ¿Cuándo vamos?

I feel like dancing, when are we going?

chancleo, *m.* The dance.

El chancleo comienza a las ocho.

The dance begins at eight.

chanchullo, *m.* A deception, a trick.

Estaba jugando barajas y me hicieron un chanchullo.

I was playing cards and they tricked me.

changuear, *tr.* To cheat, to trick.

Nos changearon en el juego de pelota.

They cheated on us at the ball game.

(See chingar.)

chante, *m.* (From English shanty.) House, home, shack.

La muchacha bonita vive en el chante rojo.

The pretty girl lives in the red home.

chanza, *f.* (From English chance.) A chance.

Orale Julio, dame una chanza.

Come on Julio, give me a chance.

chapaneco, -ca, *adj.* (Used also as a noun.) Short or low in stature.

Es chapaneco.

He is very short.

(See chaparro.)

chaparro, -rra, *adj.* Short or low in stature.

-CH-

El chaparrito aquel es mi hermano.

The short one, that's my brother.

chapetear, tr. To have sexual intercourse, to screw (sexually).

¿Quieres chapetear?

Do you want to screw?

(See chingar, coger.)

chapucear, int. To deceive, to trick, to cheat.

A ti te gusta mucho chapucear.

You sure like to cheat.

chapucero, -era, m. y f. A person who cheats, defrauds, or uses trickery.

Tu eres muy chapucero.

You are a cheater.

chapusa (chapuza), f. A trick, a deceit, a lie.

Tu siempre haces chapusa en este juego.

You are always deceitful when playing this game.

charchar, tr. (From English to charge.) To charge, to buy something on account.

Vamos a charchar el T.V. en Sears.

Let's go charge a T.V. at Sears.

charoliar, tr. (From Spanish charol.) To shine shoes.

Tengo que charoliar mis zapatos.

I have to shine my shoes.

chavalo, -la, m. y f. 1. Boy, girl. // 2. Boyfriend, girlfriend.

1. No conozco a ese chavalo.

-CH-

I don't know that guy.

2. Voy a presentar a mi chavala a esa gente.

I am going to introduce my girlfriend to those people.

(See chavo.)

chavalón, -ona, adj. (Used also as a noun) Young, small or little; as in a young child or small object.

1. Pablo es chavalón.

Pablo is very young.

chaveta, f. The head.

¿Qué traes en la chaveta?

What do you have on your head?

(See la testa, la chompa.)

chavo, -ava, m. y f. 1. Boy, girl. // 2. Boyfriend, girlfriend.

1. No se como se llama ese chavo.

I don't know the name of that boy.

2. Voy al cine con mi chava.

I am going to the show with my girlfriend.

(See chavalo.)

checar, tr. (From English to check.) To check, to verify, to review.

¿Chequiaste el costo de la provisión?

Did you check the cost of the groceries?

cherife, m. (From English sheriff.) The sheriff.

Ayer vino el cherife a buscarte.

Yesterday the sheriff came looking for you.

-CH-

chi, f. Urine.

¿Quieres hacer la chi?

Do you want to urinate?

Chicano, -ana, m. y f. A contemporary term selected by persons in the U.S. who have a Spanish-Indian (Mestizo) origin, who refer to themselves as an ethnic group seeking reaffirmation of heritage, culture, language, values and the ultimate self-actualization through self-determination.

Soy Chicano del movimiento.

I'm a Chicano involved in the movement.

chiche, f. 1. The breast of a woman. // 2. The udder or teat of animals.

1. Esa mujer tiene chiches grandes.

That woman has large breasts.

2. Las chiches de la vaca están secas.

The cow's udder has dried up.

chichón, m. A lump on the head as a result of a blow.

¿Cuándo te diste el chichón en la chaveta?

When did you get that bump on your head?

(See chipote.)

chichona, f. Having large breasts.

Esa chava está chichona.

That girl has large breasts.

chiflado, -ada, adj. 1. A person who has a high esteem of himself, conceited. // 2. A spoiled person, specifically a child.

-CH-

1. Mira a Juan, es muy chiflado y chocante a la vez.
   Look at Juan, he thinks a lot of himself and is also hateful.
2. Ese niño está muy chiflado. Corrígelo.
   That child is very spoiled. Discipline him.

chingar, tr. 1. To deceive. // 2. To win over someone. // 3. To have sexual intercourse.

1. Me chingó porque dijo que iba y no fué.
   He deceived me because he said he was going but he didn't.
2. Jugamos al billar y me lo chingué.
   We played pool and I beat him.
3. Anoche me chingué a esa chavala.
   Last night I had intercourse with that girl.

(See chaquetear, coger.)

¡chíngate!, interj. Go to hell! Screw yourself!

¡Chíngate! Y no me hables ya más.
Screw yourself! And don't talk to me anymore.

chingazo, m. A blow with anything to anyone or anything.

Le metí un chingazo al vato con la silla cuando dijo eso de tí.
I hit the guy with a chair when he said that about you.

(See catorrazo, realazo, catazo.)

chingón, m. Big, in size or influence.

¿Por qué te crees tan chingón?
Why do you act so big?

-CH-

¡chinguetes!, interj. Golly! Darn it!

¡Chinguetes! ¡Se me pasó el bos!

Darn it! I missed the bus!

chinguetiza, f. A series of blows to a person usually in a fist fight.

Le dieron una chinguetiza.

They gave him a beating.

(See chinguiza.)

chinguiza, f. A series of blows to a person usually in a fist fight.

Le dieron una chinguiza.

They gave him a beating.

(See chinguetiza.)

chipote, m. A lump on the head as a result of a blow.

¿Quién te dió el chipote?

Who gave you the bump on the head?

(See chichón.)

chiripada, f. A lucky strike, by chance, luck.

Fué una chiripada que ganaste.

It was a lucky thing that you won.

chirona, f. Jail.

¿Dónde está Miguel? Está en la chirona.

Where is Miguel? He's in jail.

(See el bote, la pinta.)

chiruco, m. Male homosexual.

¿Ves aquel hombre tan bien vestido? Es chiruco.

-CH-

Do you see that well dressed man? He's a homosexual.

(See fruta, puto, joto, piruco, cuico.)

chisqueado, -ada, m. y f. Crazy, nuts.

¡Estás bien chisqueado! Yo no maltraté al chamaco.

You are crazy! I didn't mistreat the young boy.

chitiar, tr. (From English to cheat.) To cheat.

Lo pescaron chitiando en el examen.

They caught him cheating in the exam.

chiva, f. 1. Heroin. // 2. A ten cent coin, a dime. // 3. Fear.

1. La chiva es blanca y café.

The heroin is white and brown.

2. Préstame una chiva.

Lend me a dime.

3. No tengas chiva.

Don't be afraid.

(See tecata, carga, diente, dimo, daime.)

chivearse, r. To chicken out or to become embarrassed or afraid.

Se chivearon cuando llegó el policía.

They chickened out when the police arrived.

cho, m. (From English show.) The picture show.

¿No quieres ir al cho conmigo?

Do you want to go to the show with me?

chocar, intr. y tr. 1. To have a collision. // 2. To shake hands.

1. Juan chocó ayer con un bos.

-CH-

John collided with a bus yesterday.

2. Somos amigos, ¡Chócala!

We are friends, shake!

(See choquiar.)

chocroso, -sa, adj. Dirty, filthy.

Ese niño está muy chocroso, lávale la cara.

That little boy is dirty, wash his face.

(See mugroso, chorreado.)

chocho, m. An old man.

Ese chocho siempre anda borracho.

That old man is always drunk.

chochuloco, m. A café, restaurant, usually a small one.

Yo siempre vengo a comer a este chochuloco.

I always eat at this café.

chompa, f. The head.

Me duele la chompa.

My head hurts.

(See la chaveta, la testa, la chompeta.)

chompeta, f. The head.

Le dió buen golpe en la chompeta.

He gave him a blow on the head.

(See chompa, chaveta, testa, melona.)

chompiar, tr. To make a fool of someone.

Aquella ruca me chompió.

That woman made a fool out of me.

chones, f. pl. (From Sapnish calzones.) Underpants.

-CH-

Los chones de la chavala son rojos.

The girl's panties are red.

chongo, m. Hair tied in a knot behind or on top of the head.

Mi madre me hizo este chongo y no me queda bien.

My mother tied this hair up for me and it's not quite right.

choquiar, intr. To collide with someone or something.

Vas a choquiar algún día si sigues usando ese carro.

You are going to have a collision someday if you continue to use that car.

chorcha, f. (From English church.) Church.

¿Fuiste a la chorcha ayer?

Did you go to church yesterday?

chore, m. (From English shorty.) A person of short stature.

Mira, allí viene el chore.

Look, there comes shorty.

chorpiar, tr. (From English to sharpen.) To sharpen.

Voy a chorpiar mi lápiz.

I am going to sharpen my pencil.

chorreado, -ada, adj. Dirty, filthy, grimy faced.

¡Qué chorreado anda el niño! ¡Báñalo!

That child is dirty, bathe him!

chota, f. The policeman.

¡Agua! ¡Ay viene la chota!

Look out! The policeman is coming!

chotaso, m. Hairdressing.

-CH-

Dame de tu chotaso.

Give me some of your hairdressing.

chuchos, m. pl. Candies.

Me gustan los chuchos.

I like candies.

chupón, m. 1. Baby pacifier. // 2. A hicky, as on someone's neck.

1. ¿Dónde esta el chupón del niño?

Where is the baby's pacifier?

2. Lisa fué a la escuela con un chupón.

Lisa went to school with a hicky on her neck.

-D-

daime, m. (From English dime.) 1. A ten cent coin. // 2. A ten year prison sentence.

1. Me debes un daime.

You owe me a dime.

2. Tiró un daime.

He was in prison for ten years.

(See diente, dimo, chiva.)

¡dale!, interj. Go ahead!

¡Dale! No tengas miedo.

Go ahead! Don't be afraid.

darlas, tr. To lose out.

Fuimos a jugarles basquetbol y las dimos.

We went to play them basketball and we lost out.

-D-

dáltiro, m. [From English date.] A date, an appointment.

Tengo un dáltiro muy importante.

I have a very important date.

decaldo, -lda, adj. Weak, in failing health.

Mi abuelo está muy decaldo.

Grandpa is very weak.

dedulces, m. pl. Fingers.

¡Chúpate los dedulces!

Lick your little fingers!

derechazo, m. A blow with the right hand in a fist fight or boxing match.

El boxeador le dió un derechazo a su director.

The boxer hit his trainer with the right hand.

derechos, m. pl. Shoes.

¿Dónde están mis derechos?

Where are my shoes?

[See calcos.]

descargar, int. To finish a certain time in prison.

¿Cuánto tiempo descargaste?

How much time did you do in prison?

descontarse, r. To take leave, to go away.

¿Cuándo van a descontarse todos ustedes?

When are all of you people going to leave?

deschavetado, -ada, adj. Badly dressed.

Lo vi en la calle, andaba todo deschavetado.

I saw him in the street, he was badly dressed.

-D-

desguanguilado, -ada, adj. Loose, old and broken up; said usually of furniture, cars or utensils.

Esa cama está bien desguanguilada.

That bed is old and falling apart.

desmugrar, tr. To clean, to scrape off the dirt.

Estoy desmugrando estas garras.

I am cleaning these clothes.

desquitarse, r. To get revenge, to get even with someone.

¿Cuándo vas a desquitarte por lo que te pasó?

When are you going to get even because of what happened?

diantre, m. Devilish, ornery.

Ese muchacho es muy travieso, es del diantre.

That boy is very noisy, he's a devil.

diatiro, adv. Completely.

Estaba diatiro cansado.

He was completely tired.

(See de a tiro.)

diente, m. A dime, a ten cent coin.

¿Traes un diente?

Do you have a dime?

(See also chiva, dimo, daime.)

dila, m. (From English dealer.) The person who sells heroin.

El Juan se metió de dila.

Juan is now selling heroin.

dimo, m. A dime, ten cent coin.

Cuesta un dimo.

It costs a dime.

(See chiva, diente, daime.)

doblar, intr. To lie.

Mira vato, tu me estás doblando.

Look fellow, you're lying to me.

doblarlas, tr. To die.

Anoche las dobló aquel vato de la esquina.

Last night that guy who lives in the corner died.

dompe, m. (From English dump.) The dump ground.

Vamos al dompe a ver que hallamos.

Let's go to the dump ground to see what we can find.

dompear, tr. (From English dump.) To throw away, to dump something.

Dompearon la basura en el dompe.

They threw the trash in the dump ground.

dostiar, tr. (From English to dust.) To clean, to dust.

Vamos a dostiar los muebles.

We are going to dust the furniture.

dropiar, tr. (From English to drop.) To drop.

¡Cuidado! No vayas a dropiar el plato.

Careful! Don't drop the plate.

duco, -ca, adj. Crazy as a loon, nuts.

Mira como anda Dionisio, es un verdadero duco.

Look at Dionisio walk, he's a nut.

-E-

empacharse, r. To contract stomach illness caused by eating raw or contaminated food. (It is said that when a person is "empachado" he has food stuck to the lining of the stomach. To relieve it, massaging the stomach muscles and lining is suggested.)

Esas personas se van a empachar si se comen esa comida.

Those people will get a stomach ache if they eat that food.

empelotado, -ada, adj. To be head over heels in love.

Pobre Juan, está bien empelotado con María.

Poor Juan, he is head over heels in love with María.

empelotarse, r. To fall in love.

El va a empelotarse si sigue ese camino.

He's going to fall in love if he continues in that direction.

empinarse, r. 1. To stoop or bend over. // 2. To drink.

1. Tuvo que empinarse para recoger la moneda.

He had to bend over to pick up the coin.

2. El vato se empinó tres birrias.

The guy drank three beers.

enca, prep. (From Spanish en casa de.) At the home of.

Está enca Dionisio.

She's at Dionisio's home.

(See aca, encase.)

encarruchar, tr. To be put in the policeman's car.

Al vato lo van a encarruchar por andar haciendo esas cosas.

The guy is going to be picked up for doing those things.

-E-

encase, prep. [From Spanish en casa de.] At so and so's home.

¿Dónde está? Está encase Juan.

Where is he? He's at John's house.

[See enca, aca.]

encimar, tr. 1. To put one on top of another. // 2. To add or to throw in.

1. Voy a encimar los vasos en las tazas.

I am going to place the glasses over the cups.

2. Voy a lavar mi ropa y María va a encimar la suya.

I am going to wash my clothes and María is going to throw in her clothes.

encimoso, -osa, adj. [Used also as a noun.] A nuisance, a pest, one who is always looking over your shoulder.

Es un muchacho muy encimoso y me molesta mucho.

He is a nuisance, and he bothers me very much.

encuerado, -ada, adj. [Used also as a noun.] To be without clothes, naked.

Estaba encuerado.

He was naked.

encuerarse, r. To take off one's clothes.

Se van a encuerar todos para bañarse en la playa.

Everyone is going to take off all their clothes to go swimming in the beach.

enchilado, -ada, adj. Angry.

Todo el grupo está bien enchilado por lo que pasó.

The entire group is angry because of what happened.

-E-

ende, adv. (From Spanish desde.) Since, a short while ago.

Ende que te fuiste, no he estado a gusto.

I have not been happy since you left.

(See endenantes.)

endenantes, adv. (From Spanish desde antes.) A little while ago.

Oye, endenantes yo les dije que iba.

Listen, a little while ago I told you I was going.

(See ende.)

enmugrado, -ada, adj. Dirty, covered with grime.

Estos pantalones están muy enmugrados.

These pants are very dirty.

ensalar, tr. To initiate someone into a gang by taking his pants off and hanging them from a tree.

Lo queremos en nuestra ganga, vamos a ensalarlo.

We want him in our gang, let's invite him.

entacuchado, adj. To be wearing a suit, all dressed up.

El chavo anda bien entacuchado.

The guy is suited up.

(See tacucho.)

entavicar, tr. To put in jail, to imprison.

Lo entavicaron anoche.

They put him in jail last night.

¡epa!, interj. (From Spanish ¡ea!) 1. Hey! What's going on? // 2. Watch it! Careful!

1. ¡Epa! ¿A dónde vas?

Hey! Where are you going?

-E-

2. ¡Epa con la lumbre!

Be careful with the fire.

escamarse, r. To back up, to become scared of something, to be afraid.

No te escames que no nos va a pasar nada.

Don't be afraid, nothing is going to happen to us.

escame, m. Fear.

Ese hombre tiene mucho escame.

That man is afraid.

escaut, m. (From English scout.) Police officer.

El escaut anda por el barrio.

The policeman is in the neighborhood.

(See marrano, perro, cachuchón, el hombre.)

escolante, m. (From Spanish escuela.) Student.

El es escolante en el colegio.

He is a student in college.

escuelín, m. (From Spanish escuela.) The school.

El escuelín se acaba el día veinte de diciembre.

The school ends on the 20th of December.

escuiliar, intr. (From English to squeal.) To squeal.

¿Me vas a escuiliar?

Are you going to squeal on me?

escuincle, m. y f. A child, a very young boy or girl; a brat.

(Could be a derogatory remark or one of endearment.)

Lleva a ese escuincle con el doctor.

Take that brat to the doctor.

-I-

(See chamaco, huerco.)

escuna, f. (From English schooner.) A schooner of beer.

Sírvanos otras escunas, señor.

Serve us more schooners, please.

escura, f. (From English scooter.) Scooter.

Voy a comprar una escura para mi carnalito.

I am going to buy a scooter for my little brother.

escusado, m. The toilet, the restroom.

Voy al escusado ahorita.

I am going to the toilet right now.

(See la crepa, el cuarto de baño.)

¡ese!, interj. Hey you! (Used when calling someone.)

¡Oye, ese! ¿A dónde vas?

Hey you! Where are you going?

esnepiar, intr. (From English snap.) To snap out of something, to realize.

Necesitamos que esnepiar antes que se haga tarde.

We need to snap out of it before it's too late.

espaldear, tr. To come to the aid of someone, to help, support someone who is in some particular difficulty.

¿Me vas a espaldear, o no?

Are you, or are you not, going to back me up?

(See esquinear.)

espelear, tr. (From English to spell.) To spell.

Tu no sabes espelear la palabra.

You do not know how to spell the word.

-E-

esponjarse, r. To become mad, angry, enraged.

Nomás se los dije y se esponjaron.

As soon as I told them, they became enraged.

esquinear, tr. To take sides with someone, in his support, to help someone in difficulties, in a conflict or confrontation.

Quiero que me esquinees cuando yo hable.

I want you to support me when I speak.

[See espaldear.]

esquipiar, tr. [From English to skip.] To skip.

Yo voy a esquipiar la clase de inglés hoy.

I am going to skip my English class today.

estafeta, f. The post office.

Voy a la estafeta a echar esta carta.

I am going to the post office to mail this letter.

estampiar, tr. [From English to stamp.] To stamp a letter, or to stamp anything.

No me estampiaron el tiquete.

They didn't stamp my ticket.

estepliar, tr. [From English to staple.] To staple.

Vamos a tener que estepliar todos los papeles.

We are going to have to staple all the papers.

estilla, f. A grudge, to conflict.

El me tiene estilla.

He has it in for me.

estompar, tr. [From English to stomp.] 1. To stomp, to hit or beat up someone. // 2. To inhale toxicants.

-I-

1. Cuando lo vea lo voy a estompar.

   I'll beat him up when I see him.

2. No quieres estompar un poquito de marijuana.

   Don't you want to inhale a little marijuana.

estrampado, -ada, adj. Crazy, a nut.

Es un estrampado bien hecho.

He is a nut!

estrellado, -ada, adj. 1. Dressed up in an elegant manner. // 2. Inebriated but not necessarily with alcoholic beverages; drugged.

1. Mira que estrellado viene.

   Look how well-dressed he looks.

2. Anda bien es[illegible]ellado.

   He is really drunk.

estudiar, tr. (From English to study.) 1. To stare at, to look at someone very closely. When done to persons of the same sex it signifies a challenge. // 2. When done to a person of the opposite sex it is usually a manner of flirting.

1. Me puse a estudiarlo pero se me aguitó.

   I stared at him but he backed off.

2. Ya no la estudies tanto. ¡déjala!

   Don't flirt with her so much, leave her alone.

¡estufas!, interj. That's enough! I had enough of it!

Ya ¡estufas! Ya no quiero oír más.

Enough is enough! I don't want to hear anymore.

estuz, m. (From English stool pigeon.) Stool pigeon.

-E-

Cuídate con el estule.

Be careful of that stool pigeon.

(See relaje.)

excusado, m. *The toilet, the restroom.*

¿Dónde está el escusado?

Where is the restroom?

(See crepa, escusado.)

-F-

falscarse, r. *Sprain a part of the body, specifically a leg or a hand.*

Se falseó el tobillo y apenas puede andar.

He sprained his ankle and he can hardly walk.

fanear, tr. (From English *to fan out.*) 1. *In a baseball game, to fan out.* // 2. *To leave a person in a confused state.*

1. *El pícher faneó al bateador.*

The pitcher fanned the batter.

2. *No supe lo que dijo, me faneó.*

I didn't understand what he said, he left me confused.

la federal, f. *The federal prison.*

Tres de mis amigos están en la federal por ser tecatos.

Three of my friends are in the federal prison for being heroin addicts.

(See la city, el condado, el estado.)

feiliar, tr. (From English *to fail.*) *To fail an exam or test.*

Me feilió el profesor.

The teacher failed me.

(See flonquear.)

feria, f. 1. The change (money). // 2. Money.

1. Te pagué pero no me diste la feria.

I paid you but you didn't give me my change.

2. ¿Traes feria?

Do you have any money?

feriar, tr. To change (money).

¿Quieres feriarme este bil de cinco?

Do you want to change this five dollar bill for me?

ficha, f. 1. A bus token. // 2. A dime, a 10 cent coin. // 3. A bottle cap.

1. ¿Traes una ficha para el bos?

Do you have a bus token?

2. Necesito una ficha para el telfono.

I need 10 cents for the telephone.

3. La ficha de la soda es blanca.

The bottle cap is white.

fila, f. A knife.

¡Wachalo! Ese Juan trae fila.

Watch out! Juan has a knife.

filero, m. Knife.

El hombre carga filero.

The man carries a knife.

flet, m. (From English flat.) A flat tire.

-F-

La llanta está flet.

I have a flat tire.

flonquear, tr. (From English to flunk.) To fail an exam, or course.

Oye, me flonquearon en matemáticas.

Hey, they flunked me in mathematics.

(See feiliar.)

foco, m. The light bulb.

Tengo que comprar un foco para mi cuarto.

I have to buy a light bulb for my room.

frajo, m. Cigarette.

Dame un frajo.

Give me a cigarette.

fregar, tr. 1. To cheat or take advantage of someone. // 2. To annoy, molest, bother.

1. Fíjate que me fregó, me vendió el carro por $400 y no vale.

I got cheated. He sold me the car for $400 and it's not worth it.

2. Oye mujer ya no estés fregando.

Say woman, quit bothering me.

fregón, -ona, adj. 1. A bothersome person, a pest. // 2. A person who takes advantage of others for gain or profit.

1. Es un muchacho muy fregón, ya me tiene cansado.

He is a bothersome young man and I'm tired of him.

2. Me hizo pendejo, es muy fregón.

-F-

He made a fool of me, he knows how to take advantage of others.

fruta, f. Male homosexual.

El vato es fruta.

The guy is a homosexual.

(See puto, joto, piruco, chiruco, cuico.)

fulear, tr. (From English to fool.) To fool, to deceive.

Vamos a fulear a la tacha.

Let's fool the teacher.

-G-

gabacho, -cha, adj. Any Anglo American

El gabacho no sabe español.

The Anglo American does not know Spanish.

(See bolillo, güero, hüero.)

gafas, f. pl. Eyeglasses, sunglasses.

Perdí las gafas.

I lost my glasses.

gallo, m. Blood, usually to refer to the blood that oozes out after a heroin injection.

Me salió el gallo después de la inyección.

I started bleeding after the injection.

ganga, f. (From English gang.) A gang, or close knit group of boys from a barrio.

La ganga del barrio se junta en la tienda.

-G-

The gang from the community gathers around the store.

garras, f. pl. Clothes.

Mira las garras que usa Juan.

Look at the clothes John wears.

[See ropín.]

gas, m. [From English gasoline.] Gasoline.

Mi carro ya no trae gas.

My car is out of gas.

[See gasofa.]

gasofa, f. [From English gasoline.] Gasoline.

No tengo gasofa en el carro.

I don't have gasoline in the car.

[See gas.]

gludio, m. [From English glue.] A person who sniffs glue.

El Juan se volvió gludio.

Juan became a glue sniffer.

gluento, m. [From English glue.] A person who sniffs glue or is under the influence of glue sniffing.

El vato es un gluento.

The guy is a glue sniffer.

[See gludio.]

gramo, m. [From English gram.] A gram of heroin.

Me pescó el policía con un gramo.

The police caught me with a gram of heroin.

greña, f. Hair, usually disheveled.

Mira que larga trae la greña.

-G-

Look how long he's got his disheveled hair.

greñudo, -uda, adj. (May be used as a noun.) Having long and usually disheveled hair, messy.

Como no se peinaba siempre andaba greñudo.

As he didn't comb himself his hair was always messy.

grifa, f. Marijuana.

La grifa que me vendió está buena.

The marijuana he sold me is good.

(See mota.)

grifo, m. A person who smokes marijuana.

Es mejor ser grifo que tecato.

It's better being a marijuana smoker than being a heroin addict.

gringo, -ga, adj. A person, regardless of ethnic background, who possesses racist attitudes or beliefs. (Contemporary definition, non-Anglos having such racist attitudes are often referred to as gringos.)

El capitalismo es lo que hace al gringo.

Capitalism breeds gringos.

guachar, tr. (From English to watch.) 1. To watch, to look, to see. // 2. To be careful.

1. Vamos a guachar el T.V.

Let's go watch the T.V.

2. Ahora, Chuy, ¡guáchatelo!

Hey, Chuy, watch out!

(See wachar, huachar, guachar.)

-G-

guaino, -aina, adj. (Used also as a noun.) (From English wine.) 1. Drunk on wine. // 2. A person who uses wine consistently and the effects show it.

1. Anda bien guaino ese Johnny.

That Johnny is really drunk (on wine).

2. Mira allí viene un guaino.

Look there comes a wino.

guajolote, m. Turkey.

Comemos guajolote en el Día de dar Gracias.

We eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

guariche, m. Coffee.

El guariche está muy cargado.

The coffee is very strong.

(See cáfiro, cófiro.)

guato, m. Noise, disturbance, noisy conversation.

Había mucho guato en la casa cuando llegué.

There was a lot of noise and loud talking when I arrived.

güelito, m. y f. (From Sapnish abuelito.) Grandfather, grandmother.

Güelito llega mañana.

Grandpa will arrive tomorrow.

güero, -era, adj. 1. Blond. // 2. An Anglo. // 3. A rotten egg.

1. Las güeras de Méjico son las más bellas.

The blondes from Mexico are the most beautiful.

2. Yo no entiendo a los güeros.

-G-

I don't understand Anglos.

3. Tiré el huevo güero.

I threw away the rotten egg.

(See hüero, botillo, gabacho.)

-H-

haiga (First person present subjunctive of the auxilliary verb haber; to have: haiga, haigas, haiga, haigmos, haigan.)

hebra, f. A life sentence, jail term.

Le dieron hebra en la federal.

They gave him a life sentence in the federal prison.

herre, f. The "rig" or hypodermic needle or a substitute apparatus that addicts use for self injection.

Préstame la herre, quiero tirarme.

Lend me the "rig", I want to inject myself.

(See carabina.)

hielera, f. Refrigerator.

La leche está en la hielera.

The milk is in the refrigerator.

¡hijo!, interj. Good heavens! Golly! Gee whiz! Oh my!

¡Hijo! Ya se me hizo tarde.

Good heavens, I am late!

(See jijo.)

el hombre, m. The policeman.

El hombre pasó por aquí.

-H-

The policeman passed through here.

(See narco, cachuchón, perro, marrano, escaut.)

homey, m. A fellow addict, a prison mate from the same city.

El Fred is homey mío.

Fred is from my own home town.

horita (orita), adv. (From Spanish ahora.) Now, right this moment.

Horita voy espérame.

I'll be right with you, wait for me.

huachar, tr. (From English to watch.) 1. To watch, to look, to see. // 2. To be careful.

1. Hay que huachar la policía.

We need to watch for the police.

2. Huáchatela con el Pedro, es bravo.

Be careful with Pedro, he's mean.

(See wachar, guachar.)

huaraña, f. (From English water.) Water.

La huaraña no está limpia.

The water is not clean.

huariche, m. Coffee

Dame una taza de huariche sin crema.

Give me a cup of coffee without cream.

(See cáfiro, cófiro, guariche.)

huerco, -ca, m. y f. A small boy, an urchin, a mischievous youth, almost always used with contempt.

Ese huerco me está colmando la paciencia.

That urchin is trying my patience.

-H-

huero, -ra, adj. (Used also as a noun.) 1. Blond. // 2. An Anglosaxon. // 3. Describes a rotten egg.

1. ¿Saliste con la huera?

   Did you go out with the blonde?

2. Esos hueros siempre andan buscando dinero.

   Those Anglos are always looking for money.

3. Este huevo me salió huero.

   This egg is rotten.

(See güero, bolillo, gabacho.)

huila, f. 1. A prostitute. // 2. A letter, a message. // 3. A kite.

1. Allí va la huila.

   There goes the whore.

2. Mándame una huila cuando llegues a Chicago.

   Send me a letter when you get to Chicago.

3. Vamos a volar la huila.

   Let's fly the kite.

huisa, f. A prostitute.

La huisa sigue andando por la calle.

The prostitute continues walking the streets.

(See huila, puta, josla, talona.)

¡huy!, interj. Expresses surprise, grief, or alarm.

¡Huy! ¡Qué carrazo!

Wow! What a car!

-I-

idioso, -*osa*, adj. Capricious, whimsical, fickle.

No sabemos lo que va a hacer, es muy idioso.

We don't know what he'll do, he is very whimsical.

incomtax, m. (From English *income tax*.) Income tax.

Todavía no pago mi incomtax.

I have not paid my income tax yet.

-J-

jaipo, m. y f. (From English *hypodermic needle*.) A heroin addict.

El chavo es jaipo y está en el programa de methodona.

The guy is an addict and he is in the methodone program.

(See *tecato*, *tecata*.)

jalar, intr. To work, usually laborers' work.

¿No vas a jalar hoy?

Aren't you going to work today?

(See *chambiar*.)

jale, m. Work, a job.

El Pedro tiene un jale de aquella.

Pedro has a really good job.

(See *camello*.)

jefito, -*ita*. Father or mother (endearing).

La jefita va a hacer la comida.

Mother is going to cook dinner.

¡jijo!, interj. (From Spanish *hijo*.) Oh, my God! Gee whiz! Heavens!

-J-

¡Jijo, fíjate lo que pasó!

Good heavens, guess what happened!

(See ¡hijo!)

josta, f. (From English hustler.) A prostitute.

La ruca es josta.

The woman is a prostitute.

(See puta, huiza, cuica.)

joto, -ta, m. y f. A male or female homosexual.

El vato es joto.

The guy is a homosexual.

(See fruta, puto, piruco, chiruco, cuico.)

-L-

laberinto, m. The confusion and noise of voices, music, etc., especially of various persons loudly arguing.

Había mucho laberinto en el salón y por eso me salí.

There was a lot of noise and confusion in the room and that's why I left.

laberintoso, -osa, adj. Refers to a loud person or persons who argue a great deal.

Esa gente es muy laberintosa.

Those people are really loud and noisy.

lamber, tr. (From Spanish lamer.) To lick with tongue.

Lambió todo el plato.

He licked the entire plate.

-L-

lambido, -ida, adj. 1. Well-groomed hair but oily. // 2. Smartly or neatly attired (general impression).

1. Oye, que lambido vienes.

Hey, you sure are sleekly groomed.

2. Salió de su alcoba muy lambido.

He came out of his bedroom neatly attired.

lana, f. Money.

Trae mucha lana.

He's got a lot of money.

(See *paca*.)

lengón, -ona, adj. (Used also as a noun.) (From Spanish *lengua*.) Foul-mouthed, slanderer, false, liar, gossipy.

Marla es muy lengona.

Marla is a foul-mouthed, gossipy woman.

(See *lenguón*.)

lenguón, -ona, adj. (Used also as a noun.) (From Spanish *lengua*.)

Es una persona muy lenguona.

She is a foul-mouthed person.

(See *lengón*.)

liacho, m. A bundle, not orderly, and tied usually with a cord.

Voy a hacer un liacho de todas mis garras.

I am going to make a bundle out of all my clothes.

limpio, -ia, adj. Describes an ex-drug addict who is no longer taking drugs; clean.

El fué al programa para los adictos y ahora está limpio.

He went to a program for addicts and now he's clean.

-L-

Lisa, f. Shirt.

La lisa del vato es roja.

The guy's shirt is red.

lonchar, intr. (From English *lunch*.) To have lunch. To eat.

Vamos a lonchar.

Let's go out to get something to eat.

lonche, m. (From English *lunch*.) 1. The lunch, usually any food taken in a box or sack when going to work. // 2. A sandwich.

1. Dame mi lonche antes que me vaya al trabajo.

Give me the lunch before I leave for work.

2. Quiero ir a comprar un lonche.

I want to go buy a sandwich.

lumbriz, m. (From Spanish *lombriz*.) Worms.

Vamos a comprar lumbrices para ir a pescar.

Let's buy some worms to go fishing.

-Ll-

llevarse, r. To be able to kid around, or to take it, or to be able to play without getting angry even though the game may become offensive.

El sabe llevarse y por eso le aguanta todo.

He knows how to take it and therefore doesn't get angry.

llonque, m. (From English *junk*.) Junk yard.

Vamos al llonque a ver que compramos.

Let's go to the junk yard to see what to buy.

-M-

machetón, -ona, adj. Lazy, negligent, flighty, noisy, mischievous.

Qué muchacho tan machetón, no se sienta ni un momento.

What a noisy, flighty child, he won't even sit down a moment.

machetona, f. adj. A tomboy; a female who does not fulfill the female role satisfactorily.

María es tan machetona que no sabe ni cocer frijoles.

María is such a tomboy that she doesn't even know how to cook beans.

maderear, tr. To praise, usually insincerely, in a kidding fashion.

Ya no me maderees tanto, te estás burlando de mí.

Don't praise me so much, you are making a fool of me.

maje, m. 1. Fool, dolt. // 2. A person who has been easily fooled.

1. No creas que soy tu maje.

Don't take me for a fool.

2. No te hagas maje.

Don't pretend to have been fooled.

(See majear, guaje.)

majear, tr. To make a mistake or goof up.

Esta vez la majié de a tiro.

This time I really goofed it up.

(See maje, guaje.)

malinche, m. y f. adj. A traitorous person, a turn coat.

No te confíes de Jorge porque es malinche.

Don't trust George because he is very traitorous.

-M-

mallugar, tr. (From Spanish magullar.) To bruise or handle improperly, especially fruit or vegetables.

Si no compras, no mallugues.

If you are not buying, don't handle the merchandise.

mamá grande, f. Grandmother.

Yo quiero mucho a mamá grande.

I love my grandmother very much.

(See papá grande.)

manflor, m. A homosexual.

Aquel que viene allí es manflor.

You see that boy coming, he's a homosexual.

(See puto, joto, piruco, chiruco, cuico, fruta.)

manopla, f. (From Spanish mano.) The hand.

¿Qué te pasó en la manopla?

What happened to your hand?

mapiar, tr. (From English to mop.) To mop floors.

Voy a mapiar el piso.

I'm going to mop the floor.

marihuano, -uana, adj. (May be used as a noun.) A person who smokes marijuana.

El marihuano no sabe lo que está haciendo.

The marijuana smoker does not know what he is doing.

(See andar grifo, grifo.)

marihuana, f. Pot, weed, grass.

¿Traes marihuana?

Do you have any weed?

-M-

(See grifa, mota.)

marqueta, f. (From English market.) The market place.

Voy a la marqueta a comprar fruta.

I'm going to the market to buy fruit.

marrano, m. Police officer.

El marrano me dió un tiquete.

The policeman gave me a ticket.

(See cachucho, escaut, perro, el hombre.)

masita, f. (From Spanish mamasita.) Describes a good looking girl, an attractive woman. (Term sometimes has sexual reference.)

La chavala está masita.

The woman is extremely attractive.

(See pasito.)

maya, m. y f. A Negro or Black person.

Unos mayas estuvieron aquí.

Some Blacks were here.

(See mayate.)

mayate, m. y f. A Negro or Black person.

El mayate te andaba buscando.

The Black man was looking for you.

(See maya.)

mecha, f. (From English match.) 1. A match. // 2. Strands of hair; usually in disorder.

1. Pásame la mecha para encender mi cigarro.

Give me a match to light my cigarette.

2. Pínate esas mechas.

Comb your hair.

mechar, tr. (From English to match.) To match, to adjust one item to another.

Tienes que mechar los pantalones con la camisa.

You have to match the pants with the shirt.

mechudo, -uda, adj. (Also used as a noun.) 1. Disheveled, tousled, not combed properly. // 2. One in dire need of a haircut.

1. Vino a buscarte el mechudo.

That tousled haired man came looking for you.

2. Parece que andas mechudo.

It seems you need a haircut.

medio, m. 1. Half a gram of heroin. // 2. A nickel, 5 cent piece.

1. Los policías recogieron un medio de su casa.

The policemen picked up half a gram of heroin from his home.

2. ¿Traes un medio?

Do you have a nickel?

melona, f. The head.

Tápate la melona.

Cover your head.

(See chompa, chaveta, chompeta, testa.)

menso, m. y f. A fool, stupid, ignorant person, one who is easily deceived, one who finds it difficult to understand.

¿Estás menso, o qué?

-M-

Are you stupid, or what?

(See amensado.)

metiche, adj. (Either m. or f.) 1. A meddler. // 2. A busybody.

1. ¡No seas metiche!

Don't get into things which are none of your business!

2. La metiche de Juana se casó!

That busybody Juana got married.

migra, f. (From English immigration.) The border patrol, or immigration authorities.

Los de la migra son muy inconsiderados.

The immigration authorities are very inconsiderate.

mijo, -ja, m. y f. (From Spanish mi hijo.) My son, my daughter.

Mijo va a ir a la casa.

My son is going home.

mistiar, tr. (From English to miss.) To miss.

Vas a mistiar el programa.

You are going to miss the program.

mofle, m. (From English muffler.) Muffler of a car.

Mi carro necesita un mofle nuevo.

My car needs a new muffler.

mono, n. The movie, the picture show.

El mono comienza a las cinco.

The movie starts at five o'clock.

(See la vista.)

mosca, f. A pest, a bother.

Andas como una mosca.

-M-

You are a bother.

mota, f. Marijuana.

¿Que tanta mota cruzó el río?

How much marijuana crossed the river?

[See grifa, marihuana.]

movida, f. 1. To play a trick on someone. // 2. To have a lover or to have a chance at it. // 3. A good or bad tactical move.

1. Te hizo una mala movida.

He played a mean trick on you.

2. ¿Es verdad que tienes una movida por allá?

Is it true you have a lover somewhere over there?

3. Qué mala movida hice ayer. Perdí todo.

What a bad tactical move. I lost everything yesterday.

mugroso, -osa, adj. 1. Dirty, filthy. // 2. A person who is not to be trusted, deceitful.

1. Esos pantalones están muy mugrosos.

Those pants are very dirty.

2. Es un hombre muy mugroso.

He is a deceitful person.

muleta, f. A problem, anything that is a burden, a heavy rap, a commitment.

No me he podido quitar la muleta.

I have not been able to get rid of the problem.

-N-

nadien, pro. [Archaic Spanish.] No one, nobody.

-N-

No fué nadien a la escuela hoy.

No one went to school today.

(See naiden.)

naiden, pro. (Archaic Spanish.) No one, nobody.

No ay naiden aquí.

There is no one here.

(See nadien.)

narco, m. (From English narcotic.) Narcotic officer.

Los narcos pescaron a los tecatos con heroína.

The narcotic officers captured the addicts with the heroin.

neja, -ja, adj. Dirty, a yellowish, gray color left on clothes and items after having been washed.

La camisa quedó neja.

The shirt was left yellowish after being washed.

¡nel!, interj. No!

¡Nel! Yo no voy.

No! I won't go.

(See chale, nelson.)

¡nelson!, interj. No!

¡Nelson! Yo no tengo que ir a la escuela.

No, I do not have to go to school!

(See nel, chale.)

nicle, m. (From English nickel.) A five cent piece, a nickel.

Compra el dulce con el nicle.

Buy the candy with the nickel.

(See calo.)

-O-

onde, adv. (From Spanish dónde.) Where.

¿Onde está María?

Where is María?

onsa, (onza) f. (From English ounce.) An ounce of heroin.

Es muy difícil conseguir una onsa orita como están los tiempos.

It is difficult to get an ounce of heroin now, times are hard.

opercot, m. (From English uppercut.) An uppercut in fist fights or boxing.

El boxeador le dió un opercot a su contrario.

The boxer gave his opponent an uppercut.

¡órale!, interj. 1. Come now! What about it! // 2. Watch out!

1. Orale, vamos al centro a comprar el presente.

Come now! Let's go downtown to buy the present.

2. ¡Orale! Fíjate lo que estás haciendo.

Watch out! See what you're doing!

orita, adv. (From Spanish ahora.) Now, this very moment.

Es muy difícil conseguirlo orita.

It is difficult to get it now.

(See horita.)

-P-

paca, f. Money, stack of money, roll of money.

Trae una paca grande.

-P-

He has got a big roll of money.

(See lana.)

pa'cá, adv. (From Spanish para acá.) Over here.

Traeme eso pa'cá.

Bring that over here.

pa'llá, adv. (From Spanish para allá.) Over there.

Pa'llá está la ciudad.

The city is located in that direction.

paño, M. Handkerchief.

Límpiate la cara con el paño.

Clean your face with the handkerchief.

pa'onde, adv. (From Spanish para dónde.) Where to, in what direction.

¿Pa'onde está la tienda?

In what direction is the store?

papá grande, m. Grandfather.

Quiero mucho a mi papá grande.

I love my granfather a lot.

(See mamá grande.)

parada, f. To be left waiting, to be stood up.

Me hicieron una parada los vatos de la escuela.

The guys from school stood me up.

parquear, tr. (From English to park.) To park as in a car.

Puedes parquear el carro en frente.

You can park the car up front.

parranda, f. A drinking spree, usually an all night series of activities in nightclubs or lounges.

-P-

Anduvieron de parranda toda la noche.

They were out all night on a drinking spree.

pasito, adj. (From papasito.) Handsome, goodlooking guy.

El está muy pasito.

He is a good looking guy.

(See masita.)

patrás, adv. (From Spanish para atrás.) 1. Back. // 2. To return something. // 3. Backwards.

1. Vamos patrás.

Let's go back.

2. Llévaselo patrás.

Return it to him.

3. Está muy patrás en la escuela.

He is very behind in school.

pendejo, -ja, adj. (Used also as a noun.) 1. Foolish. // 2. Naive; one who is easily fooled or disposed of his possessions.

1. Eres muy pendejo.

You are very foolish.

2. Te hacen pendejo.

They (people) fool you easily.

perla, f. 1. A pusher, the guy with the heroin. // 2. The heroin stuff itself.

1. ¿No has visto una perla?

Have you seen a pusher?

2. ¿Conseguiste la perla?

-P-

Did you get the heroin?

perro, m. Police officer.

El perro pasó en el carro por el barrio.

The police officer passed in his car through the community.

(See cachuchón, marrano, escaut, el hombre.)

peseta, m. A 25 cent piece, a quarter.

Cuesta una peseta para usar el camión.

It costs 25 cents to ride the bus.

(See dos reales, cuira.)

picabuche, m. An inciter, an instigator.

Esa persona es un picabuche, quiere que me pelée.

That person is an instigator, he wants me to fight.

pícher, m. (From English pitcher.) The pitcher in a baseball game.

Ese pícher no sirve, pongan otro.

That pitcher is no good, get another one.

pimpo, m. (From English pimp.) Pimp.

Ese que va allí muy bien vestido es un pimpo.

That well dressed guy is a pimp.

pinaco, m. (From English penny.) A penny.

¿Traes un pinaco?

Do you have a penny?

pinta, f. Prison, penitentiary.

¿Qué tanto tiempo estuviste en la pinta?

How much time did you spend in prison?

(See bote, chirona.)

-P-

pinto, m. An ex-convict.

El pinto está trabajando.

The ex-convict is working.

piruco, m. y f. A homosexual.

Parece un piruco.

He looks like a homosexual.

(See puto, joto, chiruco, cuico, fruta.)

pistiar, tr. 1. To drink alcoholic beverages. // 2. To drink anything.

1. Vamos a pistiar una cerveza.

Let's drink a beer.

2. ¿Quieres pistiar una soda?

Do you want to drink a soda water?

(See pisto.)

pisto, m. 1. Liquor. // 2. To be drunk on liquor.

1. ¿Quieres pisto?

Do you want a drink of liquor?

2. Juan anda bien pisto.

Juan is drunk.

(See pistiar.)

platón, m. A large plate of food.

Dame un platón.

Give me a large plate of food.

plogue, m. (From English plug.) 1. Wall electrical plug. //

2. Motor spark plug.

-P-

1. Se necesita un plogue para el radio.

   We need a plug for the radio.

2. La carrucha necesita plogues nuevos.

   The car needs new spark plugs.

ploguear, tr. (From English to plug.) To stop up; fill up a hole or a gap.

Hay que ploguear esa gotera.

We have to plug that leak.

plomear (plomiar) tr. To shoot with a pistol.

El policía plomeó al vato.

The policeman shot the guy.

ponerle, int. To hurry, to get with it.

Hay que ponerle al trabaje.

We need to get with our job.

(See de volada, darle gas, poner en segunda, darle shine, aceite, de volinche.)

puchar, tr. (From English to push.) To push.

Púchale más fuerte.

Push harder.

pul, m. (From English pull.) Influence, pull.

Yo tengo mucho pul con el jefe.

I have a lot of influence with the boss.

puta, f. A prostitute.

Esa mujer es una puta.

That woman is a prostitute.

(See talona, huiza, cuica, josla.)

-P-

puto, m. A male homosexual.

Mira ay viene un puto.

Look, there comes a homosexual.

(See fruta, joto, chiruco, cuico, piruco.)

-Q-

quebrada, f. A break, a chance.

Dame una quebrada.

Give me a break.

quechar, tr. (From English to catch.) To catch.

Vamos a practicar a quechar la pelota.

Let's practice catching the ball.

quelcher, m. (From English catcher.) The catcher in a baseball game.

Al quelcher le toca batear ahora.

The catcher is next to bat.

quemarse, r. To overdo something, to emphasize it to the extreme.

Oye, tú de veras te quemaste.

Listen, you certainly overdid it.

-R-

reata (riata), f. The male sex organ, the penis.

La reata es el órgano por donde orina el hombre.

The penis is the male organ through which a man urinates.

-R-

reatar (riatar), tr. To hit with the fist, to give someone a beating, to whip.

Te voy a reatar si no obedeces a tu padre.

I am going to whip you if you do not obey your father.

(See catear.)

reatazo (riatazo), m. Blow with hand or a whip, a good solid blow with the fist.

Le dió un reatazo en el estómago.

He gave him a blow (with the fist) in the stomach.

(See catazo.)

reatiza (riatiza), f. A series of blows with hands or whip.

Te voy a dar una reatiza.

I am going to give you a beating.

(See catorrazo.)

reculer, tr. To turn back, to back off.

No reculés el carrito porque se cae el niño.

Don't back off the little wagon because the child will fall off.

(See de recula.)

refín, m. Food.

El refín está en la mesa.

The food is on the table.

regarla, tr. To make a mistake, to make an error, to be incorrect.

El vato la regó.

The guy overdid it. (He made a mistake.)

relaje, m. Stool pigeon, an informer, one who does not keep a

secret, someone you cannot trust.

Ese vato es un relaje.

The vato es un relaje.

(See estule.)

rin, m. (From English rim.) Rim, as in the wheel of an automobile.

Le falta el rin a la llanta.

The rim is missing from the tire.

rollo, m. A spiel, a prepared statement, to give a rap, usually referred to as rhetoric in conversation.

Todo este rollo lo conocen todos.

Everybody knows all this rhetoric.

ropín, m. Clothes.

Mi ropín es nueva.

My clothes are new.

(See garras.)

ruco, m. y f. An old man or an old woman.

El ruco está aquí cerca de la casa.

The old man is here close to the house.

rumbar, tr. To step on the gas pedal of a car, to accelerate or speed up the motor.

Va no hagas rumbar al carro tanto.

Don't accelerate the car so much.

(See acelerar.)

-S-

¡sábanas!, interj. Safe!

¡Sábanas, vato!

You're safe, man!

safanar, tr. To be released from prison.

¿Cuándo lo safanaron?

When did they release him?

sainiar, tr. (From English to sign.) To sign, to write your name to an important paper.

Tengo que sainiar los papeles.

I need to sign the papers.

salado, -da, adj. Describes a person who is always having bad luck, bewitched.

Ese hombre es muy salado, siempre anda perdiendo dinero.

That man is very unlucky, he's always losing money.

salero, m. Describes a person who is not wanted in a group, one who is in the way.

Oye, salero, salte de aquí, no te necesitamos.

Listen, pest, go away; we don't need you.

salirse, r. To overdo it, to over emphasize, to present one's self in an adverse manner.

Te saliste Juan, cuando hiciste eso.

You made a mistake Juan, when you did that.

(See regarla.)

sancho, m. The epithet usually applied to the lover of a married woman, who is probably supporting her or supplying her with generous gifts.

-S-

Cuando llegó el hombre de la casa, el sancho salió por la puerta de atrás.

When the man of the house came in, the wife's lover ran out the back door.

sangrón, *adj.* A person with a personality which is annoying; unlikable.

¡No seas tan sangrón!

Don't be so annoying!

(See *tener sangre pesada*, *ser pesado*, *tener sangre liviana*.)

sangüiche, *m.* (From English *sandwich*.) A sandwich.

Me comí un sangüiche de frijoles.

I ate a bean sandwich.

sema, *f.* (From Spanish *semana*.) Week.

La escuela comienza dentro de una sema.

School begins within a week.

silleta, *f.* (From Spanish *silla*.) Chair.

La silleta está detrás de ti.

The chair is behind you.

¡simón!, *interj.* (From Spanish *sí*.) Yes!

¡Simón! Yo voy a ir.

Yes! I am going.

(See *sirol*.)

¡sirol!, *interj.* (From Spanish *sí*.) Yes.

Sirol, sí traigo feria.

Yes, I've got money.

(See *simón*.)

-S-

sonso (sonzo), m. y f. A stupid, ignorant person; idiot.

El sonso te vino a buscar.

The idiot came looking for you.

suato, -ata, adj. (Used also as a noun.) Stupid. foolish.

Estás bien suato, yo no lo hice.

You are completely stupid, I did not do it.

suich, m. (From English switch.) Light switch.

Prende la luz con el suich.

Turn the light switch on.

-T-

tabla, f. The parole board.

Mañana me dice la tabla si puedo salir.

Tomorrow the parole board will tell me if I can leave on parole.

tacaño, -aña, adj. Stingy, tight with one's money.

No seas tacaño; compra las cervezas.

Don't be stingy; buy the beer.

(See codo.)

tacucho, m. Suit of clothes.

Necesito un tacucho para la boda.

I need a suit for the wedding.

taipiar, tr. (From English to type.) To type.

Tenemos que taipiar la carta esta noche.

We need to type the letter tonight.

talona, f. A prostitute.

La Proxy anda 'e talona.

Proxy is now a prostitute.

(See puta, huiza, cuica, josla.)

taloniar, intr. 1. To aggressively go after something; to hustle. // 2. When used in reference to females, it means to work as a prostitute.

1. Le talonié para buscar trabajo pero no hallé.

I hustled looking for a job but was unsuccessful.

2. La Gloria quiere taloniar.

Gloria wants to become a prostitute.

tando, m. Hat.

El tando de Ernesto es negro.

Ernesto's hat is black.

(See tapa.)

tapa f. Hat.

Cuidado porque se te enmugra la tapa.

Careful or you'll get your hat dirty.

(See tando.)

tapado, -ada, adj. Naive, to be ignorant, stupid.

Tú estás bien tapado, no sabes lo que estás diciendo.

You're ignorant, you do not know what you're saying.

task force, m. Undercover policemen.

Cuidado, puede ser del task force.

Careful, he may be an undercover cop.

taun, m. (From English town.) Downtown.

-T-

Vamos al taun.

Let's go downtown.

tecata, f. 1. Heroin. // 2. Female heroin user.

1. ¿Qué tanta tecata hay en la ciudad de San Antonio?

How much heroin is there in San Antonio?

2. La tecata está aquí.

That woman heroin addict is here.

(See chiva, carga, tecato.)

tecato, m. y f. One who uses heroin.

¿Qué quiere ese tecato?

What does that heroin addict want?

(See jaipo.)

telefonazo, m. (From English telephone.) A telephone call.

Dame un telefonazo.

Give me a telephone call.

(See alambrazo.)

tenazos, m. pl. (From English tennis.) Tennis shoes.

Los tenazos están un poco grandes, pareces un payaso.

Your tennis shoes are a little bit too big, you look like a clown.

testa, f. The head.

¡Usa la testa!

Use your head!

(See la chaveta, la chompa, la chompeta, la melona.)

testo, -ta, adv. Completely full, replete.

El jardín estaba testo de rosas.

-I-

The garden was full of roses.

ticha, f. [From English teacher.] Teacher.

Ay viene la ticha, bájate del escritorio.

The teacher is coming, get off the desk.

tichar, tr. [From English to teach.] To teach.

Te voy a tichar la lección.

I am going to teach you the lesson.

timbón, -na, adj. Big-bellied, pot-bellied, obese.

Te estás poniendo muy timbón.

You are getting fat.

tiquete, m. [From English ticket.] A ticket; either a summons, or a piece of paper to be used for admission, or for reclaiming any article.

Me dió un tiquete la policía.

The policeman gave me a traffic ticket.

tirarse, n. To inject oneself with heroin.

Fué Juan a tirarse.

Juan went to inject himself with heroin.

tocazo, m. A puff from a cigarette.

¡Dame un tocazo!

Give me a puff from your cigarette.

[See toque.]

tochar, tr. [From English to touch.] To touch.

Hay que tochar la cabeza de un bebito para que no le hagan ojo.

You need to touch the baby's head so that he will not

get sick.

(See atochar.)

tolón, m. A half dollar, fifty cent piece.

Cuesta un tolón.

It costs fifty cents.

(See tostón.)

tomates, m. pl. Eyes.

Te voy a apagar los tomates.

I'm going to give you black eyes.

toque, m. 1. A joint, a marijuana cigarette. // 2. A puff from a cigarette.

1. Vamos a darnos un toque.

Let's have a joint.

2. Dame un toque.

Give me a puff.

(See tocazo.)

torcer, intr. 1. To die or to be killed. // 2. To be incarcerated.

1. La jefita de Juan torció anoche.

Juan's mother died last night.

2. Torcieron al Chuy por quince años.

Chuy got a jail sentence of 15 years.

torcida, f. Prison, the penitentiary.

Cayó en la torcida.

He landed in the penitentiary.

(See torcer, el bote, la chirona, la pinta.)

tostón, m. A 50 cent piece.

-T-

Pagué un tostón por las flores.

I paid 50 cents for the flowers.

(See tolón.)

tramaos, m. pl. Pants, trousers.

Tienes alguna cosa en los tramos.

You have something on your trousers.

(See tramos.)

tramos, m. pl. Pants, trousers.

¿Dónde compraste los tramos?

Where did you buy the trousers?

(See tramaos.)

trampa, f. (From English tramp.) Tramp, a hustler.

La Gloria es una trampa.

Gloria is a tramp.

traque, m. (From English track.) The railroad track.

Allá nos juntamos cerca de los traques.

We'll get together close to the railroad tracks.

trimiar, tr. (From English to trim.) To cut, to trim.

Tienes que trimiarte el bigote.

You have to trim your mustache.

troca, f. (From English truck.) Truck.

¡Parquea la troca!

Park the truck!

trolas, f. pl. Matches.

Las trolas se nos mojaron cuando nos caimos en el agua.

The matches got wet when we fell into the water.

-T-

trompudo, -uda, adj. Refers to a person with very prominent mouth or thick oblong lips. Used most of the time in a derogatory manner.

Oye, trompudo, ven acá.

You with the big mouth, come here.

¡truchas!, interj. Be careful! Look out!

Ponte truchas porque es peligroso.

Be careful because it's dangerous.

(See agues, al alba, águila.)

truje (pret of traer) (Archaic) 1. I brought. (Modern Spanish: truje.) // 2. trujo, he brought. (Modern Spanish: trajo.)

1. Truje los libros.

I brought the books.

2. Trujo los libros.

He brought the books.

tubos, m. pl. Socks.

Les compré tubos a mis chicos.

I bought socks for my children.

-U-

¡Ujule! interj. Term used to express dissatisfaction, frustration, astonishment, disappointment, etc., i.e., doggone it! Gosh! Golly! Gee whizz!

¡Ujule! Se me olvidó tu cumpleaños.

Doggone it! I forgot your birthday.

(See *bújulo*.)

-V-

vacilar, intr. 1. To play or kid around; to fool or play a trick on someone. // 2. To flirt. // 3. To joke.

1. Vamos a vacilar a José.

   Let's play a trick on José.

2. Está vacilando con María.

   He is flirting with María.

3. No está diciendo la verdad. Está vacilando.

   He is not telling the truth. He's joking.

(See *bacilar*.)

vaisa, f. The hand.

El vato trae la vaisa cortada.

The guy has his hand cut.

(See *manopla*, *baisa*.)

váscula, f. A body search, to frisk.

Ese cuico te va a hacer una váscula.

That policeman is going to give you a body search.

vide (pret. of *ver*.) (Archaic.) 1. I saw. (Modern Spanish: *vi*.) // 2. *Vido*, he saw. (Modern Spanish: *vió*.)

1. Yo lo vide en el centro.

   I saw him in town.

2. El lo vido cuando pasó.

   He saw him when he passed.

-V-

vista, f. The picture show, the movie.

No me gustó la vista de hoy.

I didn't like the movie they showed today.

(See mono.)

-W-

wachar, v. (From English to watch.) 1. To see; to be with. // 2. Watch out, look out.

1. Anoche fuimos a wachar las novias.

Last night we went to see our girlfriends.

2. Ahora, Chuy, ¡Wchatela!

Hey, Chuy, watch out.

(See huachar, guachar.)

waino, adj. (Used also as a noun.) (From English wine.) 1. Drunk on wine. // 2. A person who drinks too much wine.

1. Ese waino no lo conozco yo.

I don't know that wine guzzler.

2. Allí viene un waino.

There comes a wine drinker.

(See guaino.)

wayekan, m. (From English wine.) Wine.

Nos pistiamos tres botellas de wayekan.

We drank three bottles of wine.

wetiarse, r. (From English to wet.) To get wet.

¡Fíjate! Está lloviendo y se me wetiaron los libros.

-W-

¡Look! ¡Está lloviendo y se mojaron mis libros!

Look! It's raining and my books got wet.

-Y-

yaque, m. (From English jack.) The tire jack.

Quiero componer la llanta del carro pero no tengo yaque.

I want to fix the tire but I don't have a jack.

(See yee.)

yaquear, tr. (From English to jack up.) To jack up a car.

Vamos a yaquear el carro para ponerle la llanta.

Let's jack up the car to put on the tire.

yarda, f. (From English yard.) The piece of land pertaining to the house; the yard.

Vamos a plantar rosales en nuestra yarda.

We are going to plant rosebushes in our yard.

yee, m. (From English jack.) The tire jack.

¿Dónde está el yee?

Where is the jack?

(See yaque.)

-Z-

zoquetal, m. Place where there is lots of mud; a lot of mud.

Llegamos al zoquetal y no pudimos pasar.

We arrived at the place where there was lots of mud and we couldn't pass.

[See zoquete.]

zoquete, m. Mud.

A los niños les gusta jugar con el zoquete.

Children like to play with mud.

zoquetoso, -osa, adj. Muddy.

Vamos a devolvernos, esa calle está muy zoquetosa.

Let's turn back, that street is very muddy.

zurdazo, m. A blow with the left hand in a fist fight or in boxing.

Mike Ayala ganó el pleito con un zurdazo a la cabeza.

Mike Ayala won the fight with a left handed punch.

SECTION II

LOCUTIONS AND IDIOMATIC PHRASES

SECTION II

LOCUTIONS AND IDIOMATIC PHRASES

-A-

Dar un arragón.

To reprimand, to bawl out.

Mi papá me dió un agarrón porque fuí al baile sin avisarle.

My father bawled me out because I went to the dance without letting him know.

¡Muévele el agua.

Incite her to fall in love with you.

Ya no le muevas l'agua, al cabo no te quiere.

Do not play up to her, she doesn't love you.

¡Darle aceite!

To hurry, to accelerate.

¡Orale Juan! Dale aceite.

Come Juan! Let's hurry.

(See ¡darle gas!, ¡de volada!, de volinche, ponerle, poner en segunda, ¡darle shine!)

Echale aceite!

Get on with it! Get started! Let's go!

¡Ora! ¡Echale aceite! ¿Qué esperas?

Come now! Get with it! What are you waiting for?

(See ¡darle gas!, ¡dale shine!, ¡dale aceite!, de volada, de volinche, ponerle, poner en segunda.)

¡Aguila con los belices!

Watch out! Careful!

¡Aguila con los belices! Ahí viene el policía.

Watch out! There comes a policeman.

-A-

Ser muy águila.

To be a sharp person, one always alert.

Es muy águila mi tío, nunca se lo llevan.

My uncle is very sharp, they never can get the best of him.

Ponerse (jugarse) águila.

To be very careful, alert.

Yo quería ganarle el juego, pero él se puso muy águila.

I wanted to beat him at that game but he became very alert.

(See estar trucha)

Por ai. (From Spanish por allí.)

Somewhere.

Por ai anda.

He's around somewhere.

Dar aire.

To stop a love affair, or just do away with something.

Ay tienes tú, que esa ruca me dió aire ayer.

Well, that gal ended everything between us yesterday.

Dar (o tirar) un alambrazo.

To give a telephone call.

Cuando te vengas en el autobus dame un alambrazo.

When you take the bus give me a telephone call.

(See dar (o tirar) un telefonazo, dar (o tirar) un pitazo.)

¡Al alba!

Be careful! Look out! Watch out!

¡Al alba! Aquí me estaban esperando los perros la última vez.

Watch out! The police were waiting for me here the last

time.

(See truchas, águila, ponerse al alba.)

Ponerse al alba.

To become very alert; careful!

¡Ponte al alba! ¡Ahí viene el cuico!

Careful! There comes a policeman!

(See truchas, águila, al alba.)

Amigo hasta la muerte.

A life-long friend.

Fueron amigos hasta la muerte.

They were life-long friends.

Andar con alguien.

To be the boyfriend (or girlfriend) of someone; to go steady.

¿Sabes con quién anda Juan? Anda con María.

Do you know Juan's girlfriend? She is María.

Tragarse el anzuelo.

To fall in the trap, to take the bait.

Le prometí cinco dólares y se tragó el anzuelo.

I promised him five dollars and he took the bait.

De aquella.

Good, feeling well, looking better, great, excellent, swell.

Oye, Juanita, te ves pero de aquella.

Listen Juanita, you look great.

Ser de aquellas.

To be a good, well-liked person; a friend.

El Juan es de aquellas.

-A-

Juan is a good person.

(See caerle bien a uno.)

No necesitar aretes.

Not to need anyone tagging along.

No necesito aretes, ¡Vete!

I don't need anyone tagging along, go away!

Arrastrarle a alguien.

Describes a person of great ability to perform a certain skill.

These similar terms may be used:

Chicotearle a alguien.

Pajuelearle a alguien.

Rezumbarle a alguien.

Zumbarle a alguien.

A very common expression is: "¡Le rezumba el mango!"

Le arrastra para carpintero.

He is a super carpenter.

Despuls de atole.

After the affair is no longer important; too late.

Te acordaste despuls de atole.

You remembered after it was too late.

Caer atravesado.

A feeling of dislike for a certain person because of certain quirks of personality that arouse antipathy towards him.

Ese muchacho me cae muy atravesado.

I can't stand that guy.

(See caer gordo, caer pesado, caer gorro, caer gacho.)

-B-

Ir al baño.

To go to the toilet.

Tengo que ir al baño.

I have to go to the toilet.

(See ir al escusado, ir pa' fuera, ir a la crepa.)

Barajéala más despacio.

Repeat what you said a little bit more slowly, please.

Barajéamela más despacio, por favor.

Tell it to me slowly please.

Bato (vato) de pedo.

A person who is involved in illegal activity and who can be physical if he sees the need for it.

Es vato de pedo.

He is a drug addict.

(See nuca de pedo, chavo loco, tecato, tecata, vato loco.)

Caerle bien a uno.

To be a likable person, to present a favorable first impression, to like.

Ud. me cae a mí muy bien.

I like you.

(See ser de aquellas.)

Poner en bien.

To put someone in a favorable position by talking well about him or recommending him highly.

Quiero que me pongas en bien con ella.

I want you to talk favorably about me to her.

Ya me canso de trabajar en este problema y no doy con bola.

I'm getting tired of working on this problem and I find no solution to it.

Echar bonque. (Also tirar bonque.)

To go to sleep.

Mejor vamos a echar bonque.

It will be better if we go to sleep.

(See planchar oreja.)

Estar en el bote.

To be in jail.

Los ladrones están en el bote.

The thieves are in jail.

¡A la brava!

The truth, work of honor. Tell me the truth! I am telling you the truth!

Te lo estoy diciendo a la brava.

I am telling you the whole truth.

Brincarle a alguien.

To jump on or attack someone.

Yo estaba platicando con ella cuando él me brincó.

I was talking with her when he jumped me.

Estar bruto (padre)

1. Expression signifying approval. // 2. Well done! Very good! Excellent.

1. Este traje está bruto.

This suit is beautiful.

-B-

2. ¿Cómo estuvo la fiesta? Estuvo padre.

How was the party? Best ever.

Hacer bulla.

1. To make fun of someone. // 2. To make a lot of noise.

1. Vamos a hacerle bulla al estudiante cuando entre por la puerta.

Let's make fun of that student when he comes in through the door.

2. Vamos a empezar a hacer mucha bulla.

Let's start making a lot of noise.

Andar como burro sin mecate.

To go about without knowing what one is doing, without any purpose in mind.

Ese muchacho anda como burro sin mecate.

That boy is running around without rhyme or reason.

-C-

Estar caballo.

To be stupid.

Ese muchacho está bien caballo.

That boy is quite stupid.

(See ser un caballo.)

Ser un caballo.

To be stupid.

Ese hombre es un caballo.

-C-

That man is really stupid.

(See estar caballo.)

Correr la cabeza (la chaveta.)

1. To brainstorm, to make a speech. // 2. To talk excessively, to rattle off.

1. Míralo, está corriendo la cabeza sin decir nada.
Sec, he's making a speech without saying anything.

2. Miguel siempre corre la cabeza cuando anda tomado.
Miguel always talks his head off when he is drunk.

Echar a alguien por la cabeza.

To squeal on someone, to blame someone, to expose.

Esa ruca me echó por la cabeca.
That old lady told all she knew about me.

Irsele a la cabeza.

1. To become extremely selfish, to become imbued with self-importance. // 2. To become drunk on alcoholic beverages.

1. El profesor le dió una "A" y esto se le fué a la cabeza a Juan.
The teacher gave him an "A" and you could hardly talk to Juan after that.

2. Se bebió dos copas de vino y se le fueron a la cabeza.
He became drunk on two glasses of wine.

Echar de cabeza.

To denounce someone, to uncover his true intentions.

No creía que ella me iba a echar de cabeza.
I didn't think she would denounce me.

-C-

(See echar a alguien por la cabeza.)

Ser cabrón y dormir tarde.

Refers to a person who claims to be something that he is not, used to disclaim his own incorrect evaluation of himself.

Ese vato es puro cabrón y duerme tarde.

That guy is a fake.

No valer tres cacahuates.

Not worth a darn. Despicable.

Ese doctor no vale tres cacahuates.

That doctor is not worth a darn.

Ser de malas cachas.

To be a mean person.

No quiero a ese hombre, es de malas cachas.

I don't like that man, he is mean.

Ser del otro cachete.

Used to refer to persons who are natives of Mexico. The analogy is made to the human posterior where one butt belongs to the Mexican nation and the other to the United States.

No lo quisieron ocupar porque es del otro cachete.

They didn't want to hire him because he was a native of México.

Se la dejó caer.

Refers to a man having made love to a girlfriend.

El Juan se la dejó caer.

Juan has made love to her.

(See se la tronó.)

Ser muy cafecero.

To like, or to drink, a whole lot of coffee.

-C-

Dejó la bebida y ahora es muy cafecero.

He stopped drinking and now he drinks a lot of coffee.

Ser calabaza.

To be a fool, stupid.

¡Ah, como eres calabaza!

Man, you sure are stupid!

Andar calavera.

To be drunk.

Juan andaba calavera anoche.

Juan was drunk last night.

Andar caliente.

To be horny.

Parece que el Juan siempre anda caliente.

It appears as though Juan is always horny.

Hacer el calis.

To give it a try.

Vamos a hacerle un calis a ver si podemos.

Let's give it a try to see if we can.

Planchar la calle.

To roam the streets, to wander through the streets.

El siempre anda planchando la calle.

He is always roaming the streets.

Ser callejera(o).

Refers to a person who is always away from home without reason; to always be out in the streets.

Doña Marina es muy callejera.

-C-

Doña Marina is never at home.

Ser de <u>camada</u>.

To be of about the same age, or physically the same height.

Juan es de mi camada.

Juan is approximately my age.

Hacer un <u>camaleón</u>.

To play a trick on someone.

No lo sabe pero le hice un camaleón.

He doesn't know it, but I played a trick on him.

Ser (estar) <u>canica</u>.

To be crazy

Ese vato está bien canica.

That guy is really crazy.

Dar <u>capote</u> a alguien.

To prevent anyone, or any team, from scoring while competing in a game of sport.

Jugamos fútbol y les dimos capote.

We played football and we didn't let the other team score.

Mala <u>cara</u>.

1. A sourpuss, a disgruntled person. // 2. A glowering look or stare, a dirty look.

1. Aquí viene ese mala cara.

Here comes that sourpuss.

2. Gloria me hizo mala cara.

Gloria gave me a dirty (glowering) look.

Decirlo en su <u>cara</u>.

-C-

To tell it to his face, usually in an insulting manner.

Le dije en su cara que era embustero.

I told him to his face he was a liar.

Hacerle cara a alguien.

To show by the expression on his face the anger or displeasure he is feeling.

No sé porqué me hizo cara, no le he hecho nada.

I don't know why he was angry with me, I didn't do anything to him.

No tener cara para hablar.

This expression states that someone has no right to criticize faults in others when he is himself guilty of the same fault.

Ese hombre es un sinverguenza y no tiene cara para hablar.

That man is a crook and he has no right to talk.

Traer cara larga.

To show disgust, displeasure or anger by the expression on one's face.

Viste a Juan, trala una cara muy larga.

Did you notice Juan, he was very displeased.

Ser carancho.

To be a rascal.

El Pedrito es un carancho.

That little Pedrito is a rascal.

Alzar la casa.

To clean house.

Oye hija, quiero que alces la casa hoy.

-C-

My dear, I want you to clean up the house today.

De cincho.

For sure; will be done without fail. It's a cinch.

Te van a echar al bote, de cincho.

They're going to put you in jail for sure.

Taparse con la misma cobija (colcha, sábana, frazada).

Refers to people who help each other by covering up each other's faults.

Todos los de ese barrio se tapan con la misma cobija.

All those barrio people always cover up each other's faults.

Patinarle el coco a alguien.

Describes someone whose judgement or memory is poor, says the wrong thing, or makes wrong decisions.

A Pablo le patinó mucho el coco.

Pablo's memory is not as sharp as it used to be.

De codo.

Free, without costing anything.

No sé cómo pero entró al cine de codo.

I don't know how, but he went into the show without paying.

(See de violín)

Ser codo.

To be stingy.

Ese señor es muy codo, y no va a pagar por los refrescos.

That man is stingy; he is not going to pay for the drinks.

Traer cola.

1. To have a burden, to have someone tailing you, to have

authorities on your trail. // 2. To have a court record or be on probation.

1. Juan sabía que traía cola pero no le importó.
   Juan knew someone was tailing him, but he didn't give a darn.
2. Roberto trae una cola de diez años.
   Roberto got a ten year probated sentence.

Ser de cola larga.

To be one who enters a room but fails to close the door behind him.

¡Cierra la puerta, cola larga!
Close the door, don't you know better?

Pegársele a uno las colchas (las sábanas, las almohadas, las cobijas).

To sleep late, especially when you miss work or an appointment.

¿Se te pegaron las colchas hoy?
Did you sleep late this morning?

Alivianar la concha.

To take it easy; to play it cool.

Oye vato, ¡aliviana la concha!
Hey man, take it easy.

Mover la concha.

1. To move "your ass" from a specific area. // 2. To hurry, to move quickly.

1. Quiero que muevas la concha de aquí.
   I want you to move away from here.

-C-

2. Orale, mueve la concha.

Come on man, let's move.

Estar (tener) hasta el copete.

To be fed up.

1. Ya estoy hasta el copete.

I am fed up with this noise.

2. Ya me tienes hasta el copete con tanta sugestión.

I am fed up with all your suggestions.

Correr a alguien.

To tell someone to leave either verbally or by gestures, in a manner which shows displeasure.

La corrieron a María de la casa cuando superion que había salido gorda.

They threw María out of the house when they discovered that she was pregnant.

Estar (andar) costeando (costiando).

1. To be taking it easy. // 2. The state of enjoying the feeling of being high on drugs.

1. El Chuy siempre está costeando.

Chuy's always taking it easy.

2. El Chuy anda costeando.

Chuy is feeling high on drugs.

Creerse la gran cosa.

To consider oneself of great importance when actually those around don't concur.

See cree la gran cosa y no sirve para nada.

He believes himself to be someone of importance and he is of no use to anyone.

-C-

Ir a la crepa.

To go to the toilet.

Tengo que ir a la crepa.

I have to go to the toilet.

[See ir al escusado, ir al baño, ir pa' fuera.]

Curarse la cruda.

To treat a hangover, usually by drinking a beer, or by eating certain type of Mexican food.

Se anda curando la cruda con menudo y tacos de carne guisada.

He is taking care of his hangover with menudo and tacos de carne guisada.

Fallarle el cuaco a uno.

To be crazy, nuts.

A ese vato le falla el cuaco.

That guy is crazy.

[See patinarle el coco a uno.]

Dar el cuartazo.

To pass out, to faint, to fall down.

Venía muy enfermo y al llegar a su casa dió el cuartazo.

He was very sick and on entering the house he passed out.

Cuarto de baño (de servicio)

Restroom.

Voy al cuarto de baño a lavarme las manos.

I am going to the restroom to wash my hands.

[See escusado, la crepa, cuarto de servicio.]

-C-

Hacer el cuerpo.

To defecate or excrete.

Voy al cuarto de baño a hacer el cuerpo.

I am going to the toilet to defecate.

(See hacer el escusado.)

Andar cuete.

To be drunk.

Pablo anda cuete.

Pablo is drunk.

(See andar tomado, andar pedo, andar tronado.)

Andar culeca.

A woman who is active in fixing and arranging everything in her home in preparation for her husband's arrival.

Esa señora anda culeca.

That lady is preparing for her husband's arrival.

Andar culeco.

Describes a happy man whose wife has given birth to his first son.

Su esposa tuvo un hijo y ahora Juan anda todo culeco.

His wife gave birth to a son and Juan is very happy.

Enseñar la cura.

Refers to a female inadvertantly exhibiting the intimate parts of her body.

Cuando se sentó me enseñó la cura.

When she sat down she showed me the intimate parts of her body.

(See dar puerta, enseñar quebrada.)

-CH-

Darle chain (shine).

To get on with it. Get started. Let's go! Finish up! Don't waste time!

Vámos pronto, ¡dale chain!

Let's go quickly. Hurry!

(See de volada, de voliche, poner en segunda, ponerle, darle gas, dale aceite.)

Tirar la chancla.

To dance.

Voy a tirar la chancla.

I am going dancing.

Ir al chancleo.

To go to the dance.

¿Vas a ir al chancleo?

Are you going to the dance?

Hacer chango.

To cheat.

No me gusta jugar barajas con Joe porque hace chango.

I don't like to play cards with Joe because he cheats.

Dar chanza.

To give the opportunity, to give someone a chance.

Quiero que me des otra chanza.

I want you to give me another chance.

(See tener chanza.)

Tener chanza.

To have the opportunity, the chance.

-CH-

Tengo otra chanza cuando venga el otro profesor.

I have another chance when the other professor arrives.

(See dar chanza.)

Tirar chaveta.

To think, to brainstorm.

Necesitamos tirar chaveta para salir con una solución.

We need to get together and think, so that we can come out with a solution.

Chavo loco (or chava loca).

A person who is addicted to hard drugs, and is involved in illegal activities.

Es chavo loco.

He is a drug addict and involved in illegal activities.

(See vato de pedo, vato loco, ruca de pedo, tecato, tecata.)

Hacer la chi.

To urinate.

El muchacho tiene que ir a hacer la chi.

The young man needs to go urinate.

Andar chicho.

To be drunk.

Don Ramiro anda bien chicho.

Don Ramiro is really drunk.

(See andar pedo, andar tomado, andar perrusquiado.)

Andar (estar) chiflado (-ada) con alguien.

To have lost his or her head over someone, to be in love with.

Anda chiflado con Marla y no sabe si viene o va.

He is so in love with María that he doesn't know the time of day.

¡Ay, chihuahua!

Oh, my gosh!

¡Ay chihuahua! ¡Qué calor hace!

Oh, my! It's so hot!

Ser chinche.

To be stingy.

No seas tan chinche, préstame un cuiro.

Don't be so stingy, lend me a quarter.

Estar chingando.

To be bothering, to vex.

Ya no estés chingando porque te doy un reatazo.

Quit bothering me or I'll hit you.

Darse un chingazo.

To suffer a fall, or a blow from an inanimate object.

Me resbalé y me dí un chingazo en el piso.

I slid and hit the floor.

(See dar el cuartazo.)

Ni a chingazos.

To not do something even if the person is physically beaten.

No lo voy a hacer ni a chingazos.

I am not doing it, even if you beat me up.

Tener pelo chino (chinito).

To have curly hair.

Mira que bonito pelo tiene, todo chinito.

-CH-

Look what beautiful curly hair he has!

El chiquito.

Female rump, the female sexual organ.

Me enseño el chiquito.

She showed me her sexual parts.

Ir a chirrotear.

To go out into streets and just goof off.

Se fué a chirrotear.

He went out to goof off.

Estar chisquindo.

To be crazy, nuts.

Ese muchacho está bien chisquiado, ni le entendemos lo que está diciendo.

That guy is crazy; we can't understand what he's saying.

Pasarle el chiste a una joven.

Describes an unmarried girl who comes out pregnant.

A la hija de Don Ernesto le pasó el chiste.

Don Ernesto's daughter came out pregnant.

No tener chiste algo.

1. Something of little or no importance, no problem, nothing to it. // 2. Refers to that which is ordinary and not outstanding.

1. Eso de recitar en clase no tiene chiste.

That business of reciting in class, nothing to it.

2. Esa muchacha no tiene chiste.

There's nothing outstanding about that girl.

-CH-

Tomar chiva.

To suddenly become fearful, frightened.

Nomás vió al policía y tomó chiva.

As soon as he saw the policeman he became frightened.

-D-

A todo dar.

Excellent, great, good.

¿Cómo estuvo el cine? A todo dar.

How was the show? Excellent, great.

Jugarle el dedo en la boca a alguien.

To deceive someone.

Me jugó el dedo en la boca y yo le creí.

He was deceiving me and I believed him.

Dejarlo a uno destripado.

To leave one without money.

Fuí a la jugada anoche y me dejaron destripado.

I went to gamble last night and they left me penniless.

Pelar el diente.

To smile despectively, to grin.

Siempre que pasa por mi casa viene pelando el diente.

He is always grinning every time he passes by my house.

¡No me lo digas!

You don't say!

¿Te sacaste una "A"? ¡No me lo digas!

-D-

You got an "A"? You don't say!

Rayarse el disco.

This expression is used to tell a person he is repeating himself, to sound like a broken record.

Va se rayó el disco. ¡Va cállate!

You are repeating yourself, so shut up!

Darle a uno las doce (tres).

To find oneself in a difficult or desperate situation, to be worried.

Cuando lo atacó la ganga ya le daban las doce.

When the gang attacked him, he was in a desperate situation.

(See llevárselo a uno el tren.)

Faltarle un domingo a alguien.

To be a stupid fool, a nut, crazy, to not be all there.

¿Oíste lo que dijo? A Don Jaime le falta un domingo.

Did you hear what he said? That Don Jaime must be crazy.

Dar dompe. (From English dump.)

To throw away, to dump.

Dale dompe a todos esos papeles.

Throw away all those papers.

Ser dompe. (From English dump.)

An informer.

Juan es dompe.

Juan is an informer.

-E-

Echarse a alguien.

1. To do physical harm to someone or to overcome him physically. // 2. To have sexual intercourse with a female.

1. Tarde or temprano, me lo voy a echar.

Sooner or later, I'm going to get him.

2. Esa ruca me la echĕ anoche.

I made love to that girl last night.

Estar empelotado.

To be deeply in love.

Juan y María están bien empelotados.

Juan and María are deeply in love.

(See traer pelota.)

Empinarse a alguien.

1. To shoot, kill, or assassinate someone. // 2. To knock someone down.

1. Tenemos que empinárnoslo porque sabe mucho.

We have to gun him down because he knows too much.

2. El luchador se empinó tres hombres de un solo golpe.

The wrestler knocked down three men with a single blow.

Llevarse a alguien encuentro.

To run over someone bodily.

Fíjate, por dónde vas, ya mero me llevabas encuentro.

Look where you're going, you almost ran over me.

Tener escame.

To be frightened, scared.

¿Tienes escame?

-E-

Are you scared?

Hacer el escusado.

To defecate or excrete.

¿Dónde está? Fué a hacer el escusado.

Where is he? He went to the restroom.

(See hacer el cuerpo, ir pa' fuera, ir al baño.)

Ir al escusado.

To go to the toilet.

Ahorita vengo, voy al escusado.

I'll be back in a minute, I am going to the toilet.

(See ir al baño, ir pa' fuera.)

Ser un espejo.

Describes a woman who is always spotlessly clean or who keeps a very clean house.

Esa mujer es un espejo.

That woman keeps everything very clean.

Estar esperando.

To be expecting a child, pregnant.

Vista a Doña María? Esta esperando.

Did you see Doña María? She's expecting.

El estado.

The State Penitentiary.

Salió del estado ayer.

He was released from the State Penitentiary yesterday.

(See el condado, el city, la federal.)

-E-

Estar estampado.

To be crazy, nuts.

Nos dió mucho trabajo el profesor, está bien estampado.

The professor gave us too much work, he's crazy.

Traer estilla (astilla).

To have it in for; to have persistent hatred for someone.

Ese chavo me trae estilla.

That guy has it in for me (has a grudge for me, is in conflict with me, etc.).

¡Ya estufas!

Enough is enough. I am fed up. I've had it.

¡Ya estufas contigo!

I've had enough of you!

-F-

Andar ficha.

To be broke, penniless.

No puedo ir al baile, ando ficha.

I can't go to the dance, I'm broke.

Tirar flores.

To sweet talk a girl.

Como te gusta tirarle flores a esa muchacha.

You sure like to say nice, sweet things to that girl.

Prendérsele (o encendérsele) el foco a alguien.

To suddenly understand, or comprehend or be aware; to get

-F-

an idea.

Estaba pensando en lo que me dijiste cuando de pronto se me prendió el foco.

I was thinking about what you said when suddenly I understood everything.

¡Que fonazo!

What fun!

¡Qué fonazo tuvimos en el party anoche!

We sure had fun at the party last night!

¡Sepa la fregada!

Only the devil knows. I just don't know anything about that!

¿Sabes quién lo hizo? ¡Sepa la fregada!

Do you know who did it? Only the devil knows!

Estar (andar) fregado.

1. To be without money, penniless. // 2. To be physically exhausted.

1. No puedo ni siguiere ir al cine, estoy muy fregado.

I can't even go to the show, I'm penniless.

2. Trabajé tanto que ando muy fregado.

I worked so much it physically exhausted me.

Verle a alguien la "P" en la frente.

To judge and treat someone as a "Pendejo" (fool).

Ese bato me vió la "P" en la frente.

That guy took me for a stupid dolt.

Ir pa' fuera.

To go to the toilet.

-F-

Ahorita vengo, voy pa' fuera.

I'll be right back, I'm going to the restroom.

(See ir al escusado, ir al baño, ir a la crepa.)

-G-

Caer gacho.

To come across as an annoying person, one who is disliked.

Me vas a caer gacho si sigues protándote de esa manera.

I am not going to like you if you keep on acting in this manner.

(See caer gordo, caer pesado, caer atravesado, caer gorro.)

Ha de ganar su gallo.

Describes a person who is persistent in having the last word in an argument.

Él discute solo porque ha de ganar su gallo.

He argues only to have the last word.

Dormírsele el gallo a alguien.

To be unprepared, unalerted.

Se le durmió el gallo a José y falló el examen.

Jose was unprepared so he failed the exam.

Comer gallo.

Describes an agressive person who is anxious for a fight.

Mira como viene Fred, parece que comió gallo.

Look at Fred, he seems anxious for a fight.

Sacar la garra a alguien.

-G-

To criticize or discredit someone through gossip.

Siempre le anda sacando la garra a la familia de enfrente.

She is always gossiping on her neighbor across the street.

Darle gas.

To get on with it, to get started. Let's go! Let's not waste time.

¡Vámonos! Dale gas, para llegar temprano.

Come on, let's go, so we can get there early.

(See dale shine, dale aceite, de volada, de volinche, ponerle, ponerle en segunda.)

Andar a gatas.

Refers to an extreme condition of intoxication.

El Ralph andaba a gatas.

Ralph was extremely intoxicated.

Estar gorda.

To be pregnant.

Mi esposa está gorda.

My wife is pregnant.

(See estar esperando.)

Caer gordo.

To come across as an annoying person, one who is disliked primarily for some quirk in his personality.

¡Cómo me cae gordo ese hombre!

That man annoys me terribly.

(See caer peseta, caer gacho, caer atravesado, caer gorro.)

Irse grande.

-G-

To overdo it, to overspend, overeat, etc.

Me fuí grande y compré un carro, y ahora no sé como pagarlo.

I overdid it in buying a car and now I don't know how I'm going to pay for it.

Ser granito del mismo arroz.

Birds of a feather, to be of the same kind or group.

Ellos se protegen uno a otro porque son granitos del mismo arroz.

They protect each other because they are of the same group.

¡A la grava!

To tell the truth.

¡Dímelo, a la grava!

Tell me the truth!

(See a la brava.)

Ir a toda greña.

To move rapidly.

Iba por la calle a toda greña.

She was going down the street very rapidly.

Andar grifo.

To be under the influence of marijuana.

Ese bato anda grifo.

That guy is under the influence of marijuana.

(See grifa.)

Ponerse grifo.

To become angry.

Le dije que me pagara y se puso grifo.

-G-

I told him to pay me and he became angry.

¡Ai te guacho (wacho)!

I'll see you later; I'll be seeing you.

Ay te guacho, Chago.

I'll be seeing you, Chago.

Hacer guaje a alguien.

To deceive someone, to make a fool of someone.

Nos cobraron mucho por la soda, nos hicieron guajes.

They overcharged us for the soda water; they cheated us.

Agarrar a guamazos.

To physically beat on someone.

El Tome agarró a Chuy a guamazos.

Tome physically beat up Chuy.

Venirle guango a alguien.

To not represent a challenge.

Ese bato se cree muy hombre pero a mí me viene guango.

That guy thinks he's somebody but I can take care of him, he's no challenge.

Colgar los guantes.

To quit, to give up.

Ya no va a tener hijos, y colgó los guantes.

He is not going to have any more children, he has quit.

(See colgar los tenis.)

Ser muy guapo.

To be very skillful or talented at a particular thing.

Es muy guapo para cuidar su casa.

He is very good at taking care of his home.

-G-

Puro guato.

A lot of bull, nothing but talk.

Fué puro guato, nadie le creyó.

It was a lot of bull, no one believed him.

-H-

Echar habladas.

To verbally insult someone.

No me gusta que me eche habladas.

I don't like for him to insult me.

Hacérsele a uno.

To finally make it; to score; to have something come through; to accomplish a desired goal.

Se me hizo con el trabajo.

I got the job.

Hígados negros.

Mean, traitorous, blood-thirsty, sadistic.

Ese hombre es de hígados negros, le gusta hacer sufrir a su esposa.

That man is sadistic, he likes to make his wife suffer.

Ser hijo de policía.

Refers to a person who is given special attention, consideration, privileges. He is said to be a policeman's son.

1. Bueno, ¿y yo? Yo soy hijo de policía.

How about me? I deserve consideration.

-H-

2. ¿Porqué le dan tanta atención a él? ¿Es hijo de policía?

Why does he receive so much attention? Is he a policeman's son (special character)?

Darle vuelo a la hilacha.

To have a good time, to go around usually with a boy or girl friend.

Oye, Juana, ya no le des tanto vuelo a la hilacha.

Come on, Juana, you're going out with boyfriends too much.

Cada quien pa' sus huesos.

Each one look out after his own interests. Everyone to himself.

Si viene la policía, cada quien para sus huesos.

If the police come, every man to himself.

(See cada quien pa' su santo.)

A huevo.

To have to do something by force.

Ahora te lo vas a comer a huevo.

Now you're going to have to eat it.

Amarrarse los huevos.

To act like a man and to be energetic, firm, and strong.

Amárrate los huevos y vamos a ver que quieren.

Be strong and let's see what they want.

(See amarrarse los pantalones.)

Mandar a volar la huila.

To send someone away, usually to get rid of him.

-H-

Lo mandaron a volar la huila.

They sent him away.

-J-

Joto de castilla.

A homosexual who dresses in feminine clothes.

El Pablo es joto de castilla.

Pablo's a homosexual who dresses in feminine clothes.

(See *manflor*, *puto*, *piruco*, *chiruco*, *cuico*, *fruta*.)

-L-

Dar por el lado.

To favor.

Le dí por su lado al profesor y me dió una "A".

I favored the professor and he gave me an "A".

Dar lata.

To bother, to annoy, to be troublesome.

Los muchachos en la Junior High dan mucha lata.

The kids in Junior High are very troublesome.

Bullir la lengua.

To talk too much.

¡Ah, como bulles la lengua!

Oh! You talk too much!

(See *mover la lengua*, *mover la boca*.)

-L-

Con la lengua de fuera.

Completely exhausted.

Llegó a la casa con la lengua de fuera.

He arrived at home completely exhausted.

Mover la lengua.

To talk a great deal.

Ese hombre mueve mucho la lengua.

That man talks too much.

(See bullir la lengua, mover la boca.)

Meterse uno en un lío.

To become embroiled in an argument or in a discussion concerning some gossip, or tale-bearing.

Por andar con Ciro, me metí en un gran lío.

Since I was accompanying Ciro, I got embroiled in a big argument.

Ser liviano.

To be astute and cunning in depriving others of their possessions.

Ese Juan es muy liviano, le quitó todo lo que tenía.

Juan is cunning, he took away everything he had.

Andar loco.

To be high on alcohol, drugs or marijuana.

Ese muchacho siempre anda loco.

That young man is always high on drugs.

(See andar tobaco.)

Meter un lonche.

-L-

To reprimand.

Como estuve ausente ayer de su clase el profesor me metió un lonche.

The professor reprimanded me because I was absent from his class yesterday.

Tener lumbrices (lombrices).

To appear shifty, squirming or moving constantly when seated or standing.

Siéntate muchacho, parece que tienes lumbrices.

Sit down child, don't be squirming.

Hacerle la llorona a alguien.

To appeal to someone in attempts to convince him/her to agree.

Hazle la llorona al jefe a ver si nos paga más.

Play up to the boss and maybe he'll raise our salary.

-M-

Dar madera.

To praise, to exalt someone, to flatter.

Le estabas dando madera al profesor, ¿verdad?

You were really flattering the professor, weren't you?

(See maderear.)

Andarse maderiando.

1. Making believe one is doing something, pretending to be someone one is not, bragging. // 2. Killing time, wasting time.

-M-

¿. Por donde quiera se anda maderiando.

He is going around bragging about himself.

2. Siempre se anda maderiando en el trabajo.

He is always wasting time at work.

¡Está de toda madre!

It is excellent, either things or persons; the real thing; to be something else.

La chava estaba de toda madre.

That girl was really something else.

(See a todo dar.)

No tener alguien ni madre.

An expression used to censure a person for not having any quality or thing of value. It is said that he doesn't even have a mother.

Ese bato no tiene ni madre.

That guy doesn't have anything of value.

De a madre.

Completely, totally, in an extreme manner.

Se metió en el trabajo de a madre, y lo hizo bien.

He completely immersed himself in the work and did a good job.

(See de a máquina, a todo dar.)

A todas madres.

Real good, excellent.

Hizo el trabajo a todas madres.

He did the work excellently well.

-M-

Echar madres.

To say obscenities, to utter curses, to swear.

El borracho andaba echando madres.

The drunk man was cussing.

Darse como maíz.

To produce in great abundance.

Aquí las muchachas bonitas se dan como maíz.

Beautiful girls are abundant here.

Caerle mal a alguien.

To feel a certain antipathy toward someone, to dislike.

Ese hombre me cae muy mal.

I dislike that man.

[See caer peseta, caer gacho, caer gordo, caer atravesado, caer gorro.]

Poner en mal.

To place someone in a bad light, to talk about him unfavorably, to give a bad recommendation.

Oyes, ya no me pongas en mal con tanta gente.

Say, listen, stop talking unfavorably about me.

Quedar mal.

To perform in an unfavorable manner, to fail, to say the wrong thing, to leave a wrong impression.

¡Ay, Dios mío! Quedé pero rete mal.

Oh God! I really made a horrible impression.

[See quedar bien.]

Salir mal.

Describes a pregnant, unmarried girl.

-M-

Su hija salio mal y no sabe que hacer con ella.

His daughter became pregnant and he doesn't know what to do about her.

(See salir gorda.)

Andar de malas.

To be in a bad humor, to be angry.

Ese hombre siempre anda de malas.

That man is always in a bad humor.

Ser muy maleta para hacer algo.

To be very incompetent at doing something well.

Ese carpintero es muy maleta.

That carpenter is very incompetent.

Andar malla (maliya).

To be in need of a fix (heroin), the withdrawal symptoms of a heroin addict.

Miralo, anda malla.

Look at him, he's in need of a heroin fix.

Estar mallas.

To be sick, ill.

No puedo ir, estoy mallas.

I can't go, I'm sick.

(See andar malla.)

Andar mamado.

To be drunk.

Ese ruco anda bien mamado.

-M-

That old man is really drunk.

(See andar perrusquiado, andar pedo, andar grifo, andar tomado, andar trunco.)

Correr la mamadora.

To speak excessively, usually in an insulting or annoying manner.

Estuvo corriendo la mamadora toda la noche.

He talked all evening long in a most disgusting manner.

Comerle (robarle) a alguien el mandado.

To beat someone at doing something, to have the advantage, to play a trick, to deceive.

Iba a sacarla a bailar pero me comió Juan el mandado.

I was going to ask her to dance but Juan beat me to it.

En buenas manos.

To be well cared for; to be in good hands.

Es buen médico, estás en buenas manos.

He's a good doctor, you will be well cared for.

A manos.

Even, on equal terms.

Tú me diste dos y yo te regresé dos, ahora estamos a manos.

You gave me two and I returned two, so now we're even.

Andar hasta las manitas.

To be extremely drunk.

El Juan anda hasta las manitas.

Juan is sopping drunk.

(See andar perrusquiado, andar en la tetera, andar en la perrusquía, andar trunco.)

-M-

De a máquina.

Totally, in an extreme manner, quickly, good, excellent, great, the best.

¿Cómo te gustó el trabajo? Estuvo de a máquina.

How did you like the work? It was the best, excellently done!

(See de a madre, a todo dar.)

Hacer menos.

To dispise, to scorn, to reject, to snub, to belittle.

A mí no me saludaron, me hicieron menos.

They didn't greet me, they snubbed me.

Quedar (salir) por debajo de la mesa.

Not to do something right, to have performed inadequately and feeling ashamed of results.

Leí el papel pero salí por debajo de la mesa.

I read the paper but performed horribly.

Trabajar por debajo de la mesa.

To engage in traitorous or illegal activities, undercover, sneaky.

Siempre le gusta trabajar por debajo de la mesa.

He prefers to do things in a sneaky, traitorous way.

Creerse mucho.

To be vain, to think a great deal about his self-importance, conceited.

Hizo mucho dinero y ahora se cree mucho.

He earned a lot of money and now thinks he's real important.

-M-

(See creerse la gran cosa.)

-N-

Hacer de puro nelson.

To do it for the hell of it.

Ese bato hace las cosas de puro nelson.

That guy does everything for the hell of it.

¡A que no!

A challenge: Go ahead if you dare!

Entrale, no le tengas miedo. ¡A que no le entras!

Take him on, don't be afraid of him, I dare you to!

Andar en las nubes.

To be very happy, up in the clouds.

Desde que se enamoró anda en las nubes.

Since he fell in love, he's very happy.

Agarrarle el número.

To catch on to someone, to learn his game.

Los policías le agarraron el número.

The policeman caught on to his game.

(See hallarle el número.)

Hallarle el número.

To catch on to someone's game, to find the answer, to learn someone's tricks.

Necesitamos hallarle el número a ese grupo.

We need to learn of that group's game.

-N-

[See agarrarle el número.]

-O-

Pelar el ojo.

To widen your eyes in amazement or fright.

Pelé el ojo, asustadísimo.

He widened his eyes, frightened to death.

Taparle el ojo al macho.

To cover up for some inefficiency or something badly done; to divert attention.

Lo hizo sólo para taparle el ojo al macho.

He did it only to cover up his mistake.

¿Con qué ojos?

Used to communicate lack of money: "with what money".

¿Porqué no te compras ese traje? ¿Con qué ojos?

Why don't you buy yourself that coat? Can't do it, no money!

Tener cuatro ojos.

To use eye glasses.

El vato que me robó es un cuatro ojos.

The guy that robbed me wore eye glasses.

Mear fuera de la olla.

To be completely wrong. To be in error and not to know the truth.

Oye, crees que yo lo hice, pues estás meando fuera de la olla.

-O-

Say, you think I did it, well you're mistaken.

Parar la oreja.

To listen avidly.

Cuando oyó mencionar su nombre paró la oreja.

When she heard her name mentioned, she listened carefully.

Planchar oreja.

To sleep, to get some sleep, to go to sleep.

Antes que emprendamos el viaje es necesario planchar oreja.

Before we leave on our trip, it is necessary to get some sleep.

(See echar bonque.)

Ser de esos otros.

To be homosexual.

¿Ves aquel bato? Es de esos otros.

Se that guy? He is a homosexual.

(See joto, manflor, piruco, fruta.)

-P-

¡Qué padre!

Beautiful! Excellent! Wonderful!

Qué padre estuvo la fiesta, ¿verdad?

That was a wonderful party, wasn't it?

Ser padre de más de cuatro.

"To have fathered more than four children." (not literally)

-P-

To be very manly, brave, ready for most any challenge.

Ese vato es padre de más de cuatro, no chingues con él.

That guy is ready for most any challenge, don't mess with him.

Tener palanca.

To have clout, influence or special advantages.

El Juan tiene palanca con Don Pistola.

No dejar pan por piedras.

To choose wisely and not leave something good for something bad.

No voy a dejar mi trabajo, no quiero dejar pan por piedras.

I am not leaving the good for the bad.

Vender una cosa como pan caliente.

To sell goods quickly and in rapid succession.

Hoy se está vendiendo la barbacoa como pan caliente.

Today barbecue is selling like hot cakes.

Amarrarse (fajarse) los pantalones.

To be and act like a man, to act decisively with purpose in meeting responsibility.

Amárrate los pantalones y atiende tu trabajo.

Be a man and tend to your job.

(See amarrarse los huevos.)

Aquí (allí) está la papa.

To have identified "the answer" to a question or problem.

¿Ves el plan que trae? Aquí está la papa, podemos ganar

mucho.

Do you see the plan he has? That is a good deal, we can certainly gain plenty.

Echar papas.

To tell lies.

Ese muchacho echa muchas papas.

The boy lies a lot.

Hacer papeles.

To make a scene.

George siempre hace papeles en el baile.

George always makes a scene at the dance.

Darse paquete.

To brag.

Gana mucho dinero, y se da mucho paquete.

He earns a lot of money, and he brags about it.

Hacer la parada.

1. *Not to show for an appointment, to betray someone.* //
2. *To come out in support of someone.*
   1. *Me hizo la paranda (mala).*
      He had an appointment with me and failed to show.
   2. *La Paula me hizo la parada con el trabajo.*
      Paula supported me at work.

Tener parada.

To have a lot of following, influence, friends who will come to one's aid.

Tienes que tener parada en este asunto.

You need to have someone to back you up in this deal.

(See esquina, esquinear.)

-P-

Ser [estar] paseado -da.

To be a man or woman of the world and thereby of uncertain reputation.

Con solo ver a esa muchacha se conoce que está muy paseada.

Just by looking at that girl, you can tell that she is one of uncertain reputation.

Con la pata en el pescuezo.

To suppress, to keep down.

Siempre tiene a la esposa con la pata en el pescuezo.

He is always keeping his wife down.

Meter la pata.

1. To make a mistake, to blow it, to do something wrong. //
2. To get into something one is not supposed to.
   1. No vayas a meter la pata cuando le hagas esa pregunta al profesor.
      Don't make a mistake when you ask the professor that question.
   2. Metí la pata al decirle a Pedro del trabajo.
      I made a mistake in telling Pedro about the job.

Andar como pata de perro.

To always be away from home, just walking about, without any particular purpose in mind.

Lo ví ayer, y como siempre, anda como pata de perro.

I saw him yesterday and as usual, he is always away from home, just roaming around.

Estar de la patada.

-P-

To be a mess, ugly, or negative. May refer to persons or things.

Ese trabajo que hiciste está de la patada.

The work you did is a mess.

Darle patada a alguien.

To get rid of someone as in a job, relationship, marriage.

¿No está trabajando hoy? No, le dieron patada ayer.

Isn't he working today? No, they fired him yesterday.

(See mandar a volar la huila.)

Dar patada.

1. Describes the stunning effect hard liquor has on the drinker. // 2. To cause humor.

1. Ese licor da patada.

That liquor can stun you.

2. Ese chico es bueno para dar patada.

That guy is good at causing humor.

Poner de la patada.

To talk about someone in an unfavorable way, to dirty up someone's reputation, to degrade.

Yo sé que habló de mí y me puso de la patada.

I know he talked about me in an unfavorable way.

(See poner por el suelo.)

Irsele a uno las patas.

Refers to a girl who unwillingly submitts herself to a man.

Se le fueron las patas a esa muchacha desde muy joven.

That girl mistakenly submitted herself to a man at a very young age.

-P-

¡Patas para (pa') qué son!

What are feet for but to run.

Vió al policía y ¡patas pa' qué son!, corrió.

He saw the policeman and took off running.

A patín.

(From Spanish pata.) To travel on foot.

Nos vamos al centro a patín, porque hoy no hay autobuses.

We are going to town on foot because there is no bus service today.

Hacerse pa' atrás.

To back up (down), to renege.

Me le puse firme y se hizo pa' atrás.

I became firm with him and he backed down.

Andar pedo.

To be drunk.

Ese vato anda bien pedo.

That guy is stupidly drunk.

(See andar tomado, andar mamado.)

Bato (vato) de pedo.

A person who is involved in illegal activity and who can be physical if he sees the need for it.

Es vato de pedo.

He is a drug addict.

(See ruca de pedo, chavo loco, tecato, tecata, vato loco.)

Ruca de pedo.

A woman who drinks heavily and may be involved in illegal activities, one who is not afraid to risk the possibility

of getting in trouble with the law.

Esa chava es ruca de pedo.

That girl is involved in illegal activities.

(See chavo loco, vato de pedo, tecato, tecata, vato loco.)

Volverse puro pedo.

To get out of hand, to become disorganized.

Esta junta se volvió puro pedo.

This meeting has gotten out of hand.

Estar (ser) del mismo pelo.

To be of the same size, age or other such measurements.

Estamos del mismo pelo él y yo.

He and I are of the same age.

Traer (cargar) pelota.

To be deeply in love.

Ese Juan trae pelota.

Juan is in love.

Peor es nada.

It's better than nothing.

Me dió la mitad de la manzana, peor es nada.

He gave me half of the apple, that's better than nothing.

Ser un perico.

To talk much, "to be like a parrot".

Ese muchacho no deja de hablar, es un perico.

That boy never stops talking, he is like a parrot.

Hacer la perra.

To kill time, to piddle.

Oyes, ya no hagas la perra y ponte a trabajar.

-P-

Hey man, stop piddling around and get to work.

Pata de perro.

One who is always on the go, but without useful purpose vagabond, vagrant.

¿Dónde está ese pata de perro que nunca lo hallo cuando lo necesito?

Where is that vagrant, whom I can't find when I need him?

Andar en la perrusquita.

To be out on a drinking spree.

¿Qué pasó con Juan hoy? Anda en la perrusquita.

What happened to Juan today? He's out on a drinking spree.

(See andar hasta las manitas, andar en la tetera, andar perrusquiado, andar trunco, andar pedo.)

Andar perrusquiado.

To be very drunk.

Don Ramón anda bien perrusquiado.

Don Ramón is extremely drunk.

(See andar hasta las manitas, andar en la tetera, andar en la perrusquita, andar trunco, andar pedo.)

Caer pesado.

This is said of persons whose character has a natural aversion, disliked by others.

¡Cómo me cae pesada esa vieja!

I can't stand that woman!

-P-

(See caer peseta, caer gordo, tener sangre pesada, caer atravesado.

Caer peseta.

Describes the dislike of a person because of certain personality traits that he possesses.

Ese Juan me cae muy peseta.

I dislike that Juan intensely.

(See caer pesado, caer atravesado, caer gordo, tener sangre pesada.)

Echar pestes.

To curse, complain.

Ese Pablo siempre anda echando pestes.

Pablo is always cursing or complaining.

Ser el mero petatero.

To be the boss, the head man.

¿Ves a aquel hombre de sombrero negro? Es el mero petatero.

Do you see that man in the black hat? He's the head man, the real boss.

Quedarse picado.

To be impressed.

Cuando vieron el carro que compré, se quedaron picados.

When they saw the car I bought, they were impressed.

Dejar con el pie lavado.

To fail to show up for an appointment, to stand up.

Iba a ir al cine pero la dejaron con el pie lavado.

She was going to the show but they stood her up.

-P-

(See dejar plantado.)

Piedra azul.

A tightwad, a very stingy person.

Juan es una piedra azul y no va a pagar.

Juan is very stingy and he is not going to pay.

Tirar piedras.

To make derogatory insinuations.

Todo lo que hizo fué tirarnos piedras.

All she did was make derogatory insinuations.

(See echar piquetes.)

Ser pildora.

A person who makes a nuisance of himself.

Ese niño es una pildora.

That child is a nuisance.

No poder ver a alguen ni pintado.

To detest someone, to not be able to stand him.

A ese profesor no lo puedo ver ni pintado.

I can't stand that professor.

Echar piquetes.

To express indirectly, rapid passing insulting remarks.

Oyes, ya no me eches piquetes.

Listen, quit insulting me.

(See tirar piedras.)

Tumbar pisada.

To beat someone out of something he possesses or is in the process of acquiring, as in a job, girlfriend or any other thing of value.

P

Apliqué para la chamba pero Antonio me tumbó pisada.

I applied for the job but Antonio beat me out of it.

Dar (o tirar) un pitazo.

1. To give a telephone call. // 2. To inform, to talk about someone.

1. Te voy a tirar un pitazo.

I am going to give you a telephone call.

2. El bato le dió el pitazo a la policía.

The guy informed the police.

(See dar un telefonazo, dar un alambrazo.)

Planchador (aplanador) de calles.

An idle, unpurposeful person, who is continuously walking the streets.

El Chuy es un planchador de calles.

Chuy is an unpurposeful person who roams the streets.

Dejar plantado.

To stand up someone, to fail to show up for an appointment.

El novio de María iba a llevarla al baile, pero la dejó plantada.

Mary's boyfriend was going to take her to the dance but he failed to show up.

(See dejar con el pie lavado.)

Estar bien plantado.

To have a lot of money or good job, to be well situated.

El alcalde de la cuidad está bien plantado.

The Mayor of the City is quite wealthy.

-P-

Colmarle el plato a alguien.

To try someone's patience by his constant chatter or indiscreet statements, to be fed up with someone.

Oyes, cállate, ya me estás colmando el plato.

Hey listen, shut up. I am getting fed up with you.

Dar un platón.

To serve a good, big plate of food.

Le dieron un platón pero bueno.

They served him a good big plate of food.

Tirar playa.

To go swimming.

Vamos a ir a tirar playa.

We are going swimming.

Estar pollón (-ona).

To be very young.

Ese muchacho está muy pollón.

That boy is very young.

¡Anda a la porra!

Go to the devil! If you don't like it, you can go to hell!

Si no te gusta, ¡anda a la porra!

If you don't like it, you can go to hell!

(See mandar a la porra.)

Echar una porra.

To flip up a coin and determine something.

Vamos a echar una porra para ver quien paga por la comida.

Let's flip a coin and see who pays for lunch.

-P-

Mandar (irse) a la porra.

To tell someone to go away, to send someone to the devil.

Se puso dificultoso y lo mandaron a la porra.

He became difficult and so they sent him away.

(See ¡anda a la porra!)

Andar bien prendido.

To be extremely addicted to heroin.

El vato anda bien prendido.

The guy is extremely addicted to heroin.

Dar puerta.

To show (by a female) the intimate parts of her body, either on purpose or inadvertantly.

Mira, te está dando puerta.

Look, you can see the intimate parts of her body.

(See enseñar la cura, enseñar quebrada.)

No hallar la puerta.

To be desperate because of inabilities to find a way out of difficulties.

Gastaron todo el dinero y ahora no hallan la puerta.

They spent all the money and now they are desperate to find their way through it.

Ponerle por la puerta.

To take on something directly, to have a head on confrontation.

Tienes que ponerle por la puerta.

You need to face the situation head on.

(See salarle al toro.)

Ser punto.

-P-

1. To be responsible and punctual. // 2. To be brave; to engage in daring activities.

1. Ese muchacho es muy punto.

That young man is punctual and responsible.

2. ¿Eres punto para ir con nosotros?

Are you brave enough to join us?

-Q-

Dar quebrada.

(From English to give a break.) To give an equal chance; to give a fair deal.

Dame una quebrada; préstame tu libro.

Give me a break; lend me your book.

Enseñar quebrada.

To show (by a female) the intimate part of her body, either on purpose or inadvertantly.

Mira, me está enseñando quebrada.

Look she is letting me see the intimate parts of her body.

(See enseñar la cura, dar puerta.)

Darse un quemón.

To have an adverse experience; and learn from it.

Qué bueno que te diste un quemón para que entiendas.

I am glad you had that experience so that you will be able to better understand.

Querer es poder.

-Q-

When there's a will, there's a way.

Seguro que puedes hacerlo, querer es poder.

Of course you can do it, to be willing is to be able.

¡Quiúbole! (¡Qué hubo le!)

Hi! How are you?

¡Quiúbole! ¿Cómo estás?

Hi! How are you?

-R-

Hacer rancho.

To stay in a place or a home for too long a time to the point of tiring people and being a nuisance; to overstay in a visit.

Vino a visitar e hizo rancho.

He came and overstayed his visit.

Al ratón.

(From Spanish al rato.) Later, in a little while.

Te miro al ratón.

See you later.

(See al recle.)

Ser mala reata (riata).

To be a mean, quarrelsome person.

Cuando anda perrusquía es muy mala reata.

He's mean when he's drunk.

(See ser buena reata.)

Ser buena reata (riata).

To be a likable, helpful, good guy.

-R-

El siempre me ha prestado dinero, es buena reata.

He has always loaned me money, he's a good guy.

(See *ser mala reata*.)

Al recle.

In a short while, later, soon.

Al recle te veo.

I'll see you soon.

(See *al ratón*.)

De recula.

To back off, to turn back, in reverse.

Pon el carro de recula para salir de este zoquetal.

Put the car in reverse so we can get out of this mud hole.

(See *recular*.)

Dos rales (reales).

A 25 cent piece, a quarter.

Dame dos riales para ir al cine.

Give me a quarter to go to the show.

(See *cuira*, *peseta*.)

Correr (tirar) rollo.

To deliver a talk, give a rap, usually rhetorical.

Ya no me corras ese rollo.

Don't give me that rhetoric any more.

Hacer roncha.

In a game of chance (or gambling) to win a lot of money after having started with only a small amount of change.

Voy a la jugada a ver si hago la roncha.

I am going gambling to see if I can win a lot of money with the small change I've got.

-R-

Ruca de pedo.

A woman who drinks heavily and may be involved in illegal activities, one who is not afraid to risk the possibility of getting in trouble with the law.

Esa chava es ruca de pedo.

That girl is involved in illegal matters.

(See chavo loco, vato de pedo, tecato, tecata, vato loco.)

Buscarle ruido al chicharrón.

To look for trouble.

Va no le busques ruido al chicharrón, le puede ir mal.

Don't look for trouble, something may happen to you.

-S-

Con safos.

An expression either oral or written used as a "safeguard" to help prevent anyone from degrading you or your signature. Usually put after a signature written anywhere to prevent others from writing degrading comments after it. Kings X.

Aquí estuvo Juan Domínguez, con safo. c/s

Juan Domínguez was here, Kings X.

Estar salado.

To be experiencing a streak of bad luck.

Estoy salado conque no me sale nada bien.

I'm in a streak of bad luck, since nothing I do comes out right.

-S-

Tener sangre liviana.

Characteristic of a person who is liked from the first moment that one meets him, to have charisma.

Ese muchacho tiene sangre liviana, mira qué pronto se hace de amigos.

That guy is likable from the first moment one meets him, see how quickly he makes friends.

(See tener sangre pesada.)

Calentársele a uno la sangre.

To become extremely angry, to get hot under the collar, to lose one's temper.

Mientras estaba hablando se me calentó la sangre y le pegué.

While he was speaking, I became very angry and hit him.

Tener sangre pesada.

Characteristic of a person who is disliked from the first moment one meets him.

No lo quiero, tiene la sangre pesada.

I don't like him, he is hateful.

(See tener sangre liviana.)

Cada quien pa' su santo.

Everyone to himself!

Vámonos y cada quien pa' su santo.

Let's go. Everyone look after himself.

(See cada quien pa' sus huesos.)

Ponerla en segunda.

To hurry, to get with it, to accelerate.

-S-

¡Órale, Juan! Ponla en segunda.

Come on Juan, hurry it up.

(See de volada, de volinche, ponerle, darle gas, darle aceite, darle shine.)

Dar sopa.

To send to prison, to sentence to a jail term.

El juez le dió sopa al bato.

The judge sent the guy to prison.

Tirar squirrel.

To look at a woman when she is sitting either purposefully or inadvertently showing the intimate parts of her body.

Mira aquel vato tirando squirrel.

Look at that guy looking up that girl's dress.

Estar suave.

1. To be nice, good looking, attractive. // 2. All right, O.K.

1. Esa chavita está suave.

That girl is nice.

2. Está suave conmigo.

It's all right with me.

¡Qué suave!

Boy, it's good! That's great!

Voy en avión, ¡qué suave!

It's great, I'm traveling by plane.

Subírsele a uno lo Hernández.

This expression is used with many last names to say: So and so has become real angry.

-S-

Se le subió lo Sánchez y empezó a gritar.

He became extremely angry and began to shout.

Poner a alguien por el suelo.

To degrade, belittle, dishonor someone.

El jefe me puso por el suelo con su regaño.

The boss belittled me with his scolding.

(See poner de la patada.)

-T-

Andar (ponerse) tabaco.

To become really high on alcohol, marijuana or drugs.

Se pone tabaco todas las noches.

He gets high on something every night.

(See andar loco.)

Andar taloniando.

To be hustling.

Andaba taloniando por un jale todo el día.

He was hustling me for a job all day long.

(See taloniar.)

Voltársele las tapas a alguien.

To become angry.

Se me volaron las tapas cuando me gritó.

I became angry when he shouted at me.

Tecato viejo.

An old heroin addict.

-T-

Ay viene el tecato viejo.

There comes the old heroin addict.

Dar (o tirar) un teléfonazo.

To give someone a telephone call.

Dame un teléfonazo cuando llegues.

Give me a phone call when you arrive.

(See dar un alambrazo.)

Colgar los tenis.

To quit, to give up, to hang up one's gear.

Vale más colgar los tenis porque ya me estoy haciendo viejo.

I might as well give up and hang up my gear because I'm getting old.

(See colgar los guantes.)

Andar en la tetera.

To be out on a drinking spree.

Domingo anda en la tetera.

Domingo is out on a drinking spree.

(See andar en la perrusquía, andar pedo, andar hasta las manitas, andar perrusquiado.)

Tirar (poner) tiempo.

To spend time in jail or prison.

El vato tiró tiempo en el estado.

The guy spent some time in the state penitentiary.

Caerle tierra a uno.

1. To be punished. // 2. To die or to be killed.

1. Se fué al cine sin permiso y le cayó tierra.

-T-

He went to the show without permission and he was punished for it.

2. ¿Qué le pasó a Antonio? Le cayó tierra.

What happened to Antonio? He was killed.

De a tiro [diatiro].

Completely.

Diatiro se me olvidó decirle.

I completely forgot to tell him.

Estar tis.

[From Spanish tisis.] Tuberculosis. To have tuberculosis.

Juan está tis.

Juan has tuberculosis.

Aventar la toalla.

To declare oneself defeated, to quit, to abandon an enterprise.

"To throw in the towel."

Se cansó de trabajar allí y aventó la toalla.

He got tired of working there and he quit.

Andar toconiando.

Describes a person who is continuously nodding as a result of being under the influence of drugs, nodding out.

Ese vato anda taconiando y no puede hacer el trabajo.

That guy is nodding out and he is in no condition to work.

Estar de a todo mete.

Real good, well, really nice.

Esa lisa está de todo mete.

That shirt is really nice.

-T-

Estar (andar) tomado.

To be drunk.

Mira a Enrique, anda bien tomado.

Look at Enrique, he is sopping drunk.

(See andar perrusquiado, andar pedo, andar mamado, andar cuete, andar tronado.)

Tirar tomate.

To be watchful, attentive, to be alert.

Tenemos que tirar tomate para que no nos pesquen.

We need to be alert so that we will not be caught.

Salirle al toro.

To take on anything head on without hesitation, to deal with a situation immediately.

Hay que salirle al toro si nó perdemos todo.

We must meet this situation head on, if not we'll lose everything.

(See ponerle por la puerta.)

Llevárselo a uno el tren.

To have very bad luck, to be in a difficult situation and not know what to do.

Perdió el trabajo y ahora anda que se lo lleva el tren.

He lost his job and now he is desperate and doesn't know what to do.

(See darle a uno las doce.)

Darse las tres.

To smoke marijuana.

¿Te vas a dar las tres hoy?

-T-

Are you going to smoke a joint today?

Darse trompas.

To become aware, to find out.

Se dieron trompas del accidente.

They found out about the accident.

Andar tronado.

To be drunk.

El vato anda bien tronado.

The guy is really drunk.

(See andar cuete, andar pedo, andar tomado.)

Se la tronó.

Describes the actions taken by a man when having made love to a girl friend.

El José se la tronó anoche.

José made love to her last night.

(See se la dejó caer.)

Estar (ser) trucha.

To be very alert, very clever.

Ese Riche es trucha, supo como escaparse.

That Riche is a clever fellow, he knew how to escape.

Ponerse trucha.

To be alert, to be careful, to watch out.

¡Ponte trucha!

Be careful!

Andar (estar) trunco.

-T-

To be drunk.

Lico anda trunco.

Lico is drunk.

(See andar tomado, andar en la perrusquía, andar hasta las manitas, andar en la tenera.)

Estar tumbao (tumbado).

To be no good.

Ese vato está tumbao, no sé como le dieron trabajo.

That guy is no good, I don't see how they gave him the job.

-V-

Ser vaquetón.

(From Spanish vaqueta.) 1. *To be as tough as rawhide, stubborn, unmindful.* // 2. *To be shamelessly brazen, stubbornly lazy.*

1. *Pepito es muy vaquetón.*

   Joey is a stubborn fellow.

2. *La criada es muy vaquetona.*

   The maid is lazy and unmindful.

Aguantar la vara.

To withstand pressure or stress, to stand up to difficulties.

Aguanta la vara y no estés fregando.

Stand up to the pressure and stop complaining.

Vato de aquella.

A nice guy, a nice dude.

El chavo es vato de aquela.

The guy is a real nice dude.

(See vato bueno, vato de aviente.)

Vato de aviente.

A solid guy, a heavy dude, one who is doing well for himself. One who excels usually in the drug world.

El Juan es un vato de aviente.

Juan is a person who is respected, and practices the values of the underworld culture.

(See vato bueno, vato de aquella.)

Vato bueno.

A person that is trusted, respected and looked up to by a particular reference group.

El Chuy es vato bueno.

Chuy, is a good, reliable man.

(See vato de aquella, vato de aviente.)

Vato chiva.

A person who is scared to take chances.

Es un vato chiva, se no raja.

He is a scary cat, he will back down on us.

Vato grifo.

A person who smokes marijuana.

El Chuy es vato grifo.

Chuy is one who smokes marijuana.

(See marijuana, grifa.)

Vato (bato) loco.

1. A person who is into drugs. // 2. A person who's involved in illegal activities and is not afraid to risk the possibility of getting in trouble with the law.

-V-

1. El es un vato loco.

   He is a drug addict.

2. No le quiero decir nada, es vato loco.

   I don't want to say anything to him, he's not afraid of risks.

(See chavo loco, tecato, tecata, vato de pedo, ruca de pedo.)

Vato (bato) de pedo.

A guy who drinks heavily and may be involved in illegal activities, one who is not afraid to risk the possibility of getting in trouble with the law.

Mucho cuidado con Güicho porque es un bato de pedo.

Be careful with Güicho because he is not the type to be pushed around.

(See bato loco, ruca de pedo, chavo loco, tecato, tecata.)

De violín.

1. Usually refers to getting something free. // 2. To do things for the heck of it.

1. Se metió al cine de violín.

   He went into the picture show free.

2. Hace las cosas de violín.

   He does things for the heck of it.

(See de codo.)

No violín.

Not good for anything.

Ese bato no violín.

That guy is a good for nothing person.

-V-

Pintar un violín.

To give a snow job.

Me pintó un violín de primera.

He gave me a first class snow job.

Tocar el violín.

To tell a sad tale in order to find compassion in someone in order to have things in one's way.

Ya no me toques el violín, dime lo que quieres.

Quit your moaning and tell me what you want.

La vista.

The movie.

Vamos a la vista que van a dar en el Alameda.

Let's go to the movie which is being shown at the Alameda Theatre.

[See el mono.]

Las vistas.

The movies, theatre.

Las vistas están en la calle Comercio.

The theatre is located on Commerce Street.

[See el mono, la vista.]

De volada.

Quickly, hurriedly.

¡Orale! Hazlo de volada.

Come on, do it quickly!

[See darle gas, de volinche, poner en segunda, ponerle, darle shine, darle aceite.]

-V-

Andar (estar) volando (-ada) con alguien.

To be madly in love with someone.

Mira a esa María, anda muy volada con Juanito.

Look at María, she sure is in love with Juanito.

¡A volar!

Go away! Goodbye.

Vamos muchachos, ¡a volar!

Come boys, go away!

De volinche.

In a hurried, quickly, rushed manner.

Hay que hacer el trabajo de volinche.

We need to do our job in a hurry.

(See de volada, darle gas, ponerle, poner en segunda, darle shine, darle aceite.)

Darle vuelo.

To have a lot of fun usually in love affairs.

Esta muchacha le da mucho vuelo.

This girl is really having a lot of love affairs.

-W-

¡Ay te wacho!

I'll be seeing you!

¡Ay te wacho, al ratón!

I'll be seeing you later!

(See wacho, guacho, huacho.)

Irse (salir, pasar, andar) zumbando (rumbando).

To have left in a great, big hurry.

Pasó zumbando. Se fué zumbando.

He whizzed by. He left hurriedly.

Zumbarle a alguien.

Describes a person of great ability to do a certain skill.

¡Qué buena escritura tiene Juan, le zumba!

What excellent writing. Juan is really good at it!

(See arrastrarle a alguien.)

SECTION III

PROVERBS, MAXIMS AND FAMILIAR SAYINGS

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PROVERBS, MAXIMS AND FAMILIAR SAYINGS

-A-

Goza de abril y mayo, que agosto se te llegará.

Take advantage of the time you have since you'll not have it forever.

El que adelante no ve, atrás se queda.

Plan for the future or you will not be successful.

Acuérdate, pero no llores.

It's alright to remember but don't cry over it (don't become obsessed with it). Usually said of spurned lovers.

Agua que no has de beber, déjala correr.

Leave alone those persons or things for which you don't have serious intentions.

Dicen que del agua fría nacen los tepocates.

You should pursue matters regardless of the difficulties involved. "They say that in the coldest waters, the tadpoles are born."

Hay que jugarla muy águila.

We must be ever on the alert.

El aguzao (aguzado, abuzado) siempre trae llaves para el escusao (escusado).

A wise man is always prepared for any emergency. "The clever fellow always has the keys to the restroom with him."

El que se viste de ajeno, en la calle lo desnudan.

He should not pretend to be something he's not.

"He who dresses in clothes that belong to others, will be

undressed in the street."

El Americano trabaja para vivir y el Mexicano vive para trabajar.

Anglos work to enjoy life; Mexicans live to work.

Amor viejo, ni te olvido ni te dejo.

It is impossible to forget or to leave an old love.

Amor de lejos, amor de pendejos.

Love affairs separated by distance are not wise.

Quien vive entre amor y vino, que no se queje del destino.

"He who lives for love and wine, should not complain of his destiny."

No hay amor como el primero.

There is no love like the first one.

Amigos al prestar, enemigos al pagar.

My friend, when I lend him money; my enemy, when he has to pay me back.

Cuando miran arbol caído, todos quieren leña.

Everyone wants to get into the act as soon as they see an advantageous opportunity. "When anyone sees a fallen tree, he immediately has need of firewood."

(See nomas ven burro ensillado y se les ofrece viaje.)

Eres como un azadón.

You want everything for yourself. "Like a hoe."

-B-

No es lo mismo <u>barro</u> que jarro, aunque todo es del mismo barro.

Not of the same value is a pot, or pitcher, though they may both be made of clay. There is a great deal of difference between the two persons involved.

Si quieres <u>bien</u>, y si nó también.

If you want to, fine, if not, that's fine too.

Nunca ven <u>burro</u> ensillado y se les ofrece viaje.

Everyone wants to take advantage of us, as soon as they see we have something they need. "As soon as someone sees a saddled donkey, he remembers a trip he has to make."

-C-

Es buen <u>caballo</u> pero no gana ni una carrera.

He's a good person, but not very good at things.

Cada <u>cabeza</u> es un mundo.

Each mind is a world into itself.

No dejes <u>camino</u> por vereda.

Don't try to use short cuts, which might prove disastrous.

Una <u>casa</u> sin niños es como un jardín sin flores.

A home without children, is like a garden without flowers.

Te <u>casaste</u>, te fregaste.

When you chose to marry, you chose that life style.

Del <u>cielo</u> a la tierra, no hay nada oculto.

There's nothing new under the sun.

-C-

Tratar de coger y salir cogido.

To try to rook someone only to find such an action can backfire on you.

Sana, sana, colita de rana, con un besito para hoy y para mañana.

This is said to little children who have fallen, or hurt part of their body, as the mother rubs and kisses the ailing member.

Duele más el consejo que el golpe

It is harder to give advice or counsel to the young than to beat on them.

Una cosa es Juan Domínguez y otra es no me chingues.

"One thing is Juan Domínguez another thing is don't rook me!"

No hay cosa tan mala que para algo no valga.

Everything has at least some good or useful characteristics.

Cuerpo de tentación y cara de arrepentimiento.

Beautiful tempting body, with an unattractive face!

-D-

A lo dado no se le busca lado.

Gifts are not to be examined for criticism.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

Chinga, que por detrás te vienen chingando.

You had better take advantage of others since others behind you are taking advantage of you.

De lo dicho al hecho, hay mucho trecho.

-D-

There's a lot of difference between saying and doing.

It is easier said than done.

A Dios rezando y con el mazo dando.

Seeking help from God while one does his share.

Que Dios no quiera, pero ojalá.

Maybe God doesn't want it, but I still hope it materializes.

El que no habla, Dios no lo oye.

You will have to speak up if you want to be heard, helped or recognized.

Diosito siempre se lleva al bueno.

This expression is used to express grief over the death of a loved one. "God will always take the good."

Para el dolor de amores no hay doctores.

There is no remedy for one who is in love.

-E-

La experiencia muy tarde se alcanza, cuando ya el tiempo muchos golpes no dió.

Experience that is attained through age comes too late.

La experiencia es la madre de la ciencia.

Experience brings knowledge, it is the mother of science.

-F-

Hacer reír es muy fácil, pero hacer llorar te puede costar muy caro.

It is easy to make people laugh, but it might prove costly to you, when you make someone cry.

De favor te abrazan, y quieres que te aprieten.

This is said of persons to whom a favor is given but they always keep coming back for more. "People are good enough to embrace you, but you want them to hug you also."

Fondo salido, busca marido.

An expression used to tell a girl: "Your slip is showing; you're probably looking for a husband."

-G-

Recojan sus gallinas que mis gallos andan sueltos.

This is what parents who have swinging sons say when referring to other parents who have daughters, "Take care of your daughters, my sons are on the prowl."

(See amarren esa polla que el gavilán anda suelto.)

El que es buen gallo en cualquier gallinero canta.

"The good rooster can sing in any chicken coop." If you have ability, talent, courage, etc., you can perform with success anywhere.

Salir de Guatemala y meterse en Guatepeor.

"From the frying pan into the fire."

-H-

Eso es harina de otro costal.

That's a different matter or case, no longer the same.

"A horse of a different color."

Te pido hojas y me das ramas.

Refers to a person who has misunderstood what was said.

"I ask you for leaves and you give me branches."

No te mortifiques, el hombre debe ser feo, fuerte y formal; lo demás es de las mujeres.

Men should concern themselves with strength and dignity; beauty should be the concern of women only.

-I-

El ignorante todo lo sabe, menos su propia ignorancia.

An ignorant person tends to know everything except his state of ignorance.

-J-

Quedarse sin Juan y sin las gallinas.

To lose everything after hesitating in choosing between two items. "To lose Juan, and also the chickens."

El que juega aguanta, y el que no, se atiranta.

People must accept the responsibilities associated with his undertaking or else not undertake matters.

-L-

Limosnero y con garrote.

He's asking for favors, and is threatening me besides. Usually one who has a petition and is demanding in a loud discourteous manner.

El que come y canta, loco se levanta.

Expression which is used to admonish children to behave at the dinner table. "If you sing while at the dinner table, you will turn crazy when you leave the table."

Se quedó como el que chifló en la loma.

"He wound up whistling in the wind."

-LI-

Cuando no me llue e me llovizna.

I always have bad luck, sometimes lots of it, at other times less. In other words, I am a most unlucky person. "When it doesn't rain on me, it drizzles."

-M-

El que mal haga, bien no espere.

He who's involved in wrongdoing should not expect any good in return.

El que solo se rie, de sus maldades se acuerda.

He who laughs to himself, remembers his misdeeds.

-M-

Más vale malo por conocido que bueno por conocer.

A person whose falsehoods are known is better kept than searching for good in a stranger.

Te ofrecen la mano y agarras el pié.

Refers to a person who abuses of someone's kindness. "You are offered a hand but you reach for the foot."

El que no mantiene no aetiene.

He who does not provide for his family and home looses the right of heading his family.

No dejes para mañana lo que puedas hacer hoy.

"Don't leave for tomorrow what you can do today."

Al marrano más trompudo le toca la mejor mazorca.

The ugliest man always marries the prettiest girl.

Más seguro, más marrao (amarrado).

The surer you are the more secure you are.

De médico, poeta y loco, todos tenemos un poco.

A rhyme communicating that all of us have varied abilities which we can put to use in emergencies. "We all have a little of the physician, the poet, and the nut."

El vivir bien, quita el miedo.

"An honest life removes all fear."

El que anda entre la miel, algo se le pega.

People will acquire the characteristics of the groups they frequent.

No es lo mismo ver hacer, que hacer.

There's a big difference between watching someone work and doing the work itself.

-M-

El que mucho abarca poco aprieta.

He who attempts too many different tasks simultaneously accomplishes very little.

El muerto al pozo y el vivo al negocio.

"The dead to his grave, the alive to his business."

Describes how quickly a dead person is forgotten.

Al la mujer se le debe respetar y su lugar es en el hogar.

A rhyme communicating that women should be respected and that their place is in the home.

Nadie se va de este mundo con el cigarro en la oreja.

"No one leaves this world with a cigarette on his ear."

The wearing of the cigarette on the ear signifies ownership of an abundance of material goods. The message communicated is that no one can take his material gains to his grave.

Nadie se va de este mundo sin pagar lo que debe.

No one leaves this world without paying all his debts, material or otherwise.

-N-

Yo soy quien soy, y no me parezco a nadie.

A boast or a brag: "I am like I am, and I don't look like anyone else."

Prepara tu nido en tu juventud para cuando tu vejes llegue.

Prepare yourself during your youth for your life in the later years (when you're old).

-O-

Ojo pendiente, no miente.

If you want to know the truth, pay very close attention.

"Eyesight does not falsify."

¡No me mires con ojos de hambre!

Don't look at me with piercing eyes. Don't be angry with me.

Solo el que menea la olla sabe lo que está dentro.

Be not guided by appearances, only he who is directly involved knows the full extent of his problems. "Only he who stirs the pot knows what's inside."

Cada oveja con su pareja.

To each his own. "Birds of a feather fly together."

-P-

¡Pa acabarla de amolar!

My gosh, this tops it all! This is the limit! This has really ruined me!

Tal es el padre, tal es el hijo.

As is the father so is the son. "A chip off the old block."

El que paga lo que debe, sana del mal que padece.

He who pays all his debts will be cured of all his troubles.

Parece que le cagó un pájaro. (una urraca)

Refers to a person's general ugly appearance. It implies that his parents must have been inhuman.

Jijo, parece que la cagó un pájaro.

Man, she's ugly.

-P-

La mejor palabra es la que no se habla.

"Silence is golden."

The best words are those unspoken. Actions speak louder than words.

Palo dado ni Dios lo quita.

There is no remedy to what damage has already occurred.

Dale pan a perro ajeno, pierdes pan y pierdes perro.

In providing for a stranger one loses what was provided and gains nothing from the stranger "Giving bread to the neighbor's dog, one loses the bread and also the dog."

Panza llena corazón contento.

Expression used to indicate a general condition of well being after a good meal.

Es más sabrosa la pasa que la uva.

"The raisin is tastier than the grape." States that persons get better with age. "You're not getting older, you're getting better."

(See es más fresca la tarde que la mañana.)

Lo que se ha de pelar que se vaya remojando.

If there's a job to be done, let's start our preparations immediately. "That which is to be skinned, let it be soaking."

Para pendejo no se necesita escuela.

One does not need special training to be a fool.

Perro que ladra, no muerde.

You needn't be afraid of a loud mouth, be careful of the silent person.

-P-

"A dog that barks, doesn't bite."

Para cada perro hay su garrote.

For every problem there is a solution. "For each dog there is a special stick."

No le busques tres pies al gato porque le hallas cuatro.

Do not look for trouble because you will be sure to find it. "Don't look for three paws on a cat, because you will find it has four."

Más vale poco de lo mejor que mucho de lo peor.

It is better to have a little of the best, than a whole lot of the worst.

Amarren esa polla que el gavilán anda suelto.

"Better tie up that pullet because the hawk is on the loose."

Take care of that young lady, there's a young man after her.

(See Recojan sus gallinas que mis gallos andan sueltos.)

-Q-

Más vale bien quedada y no mal casada.

For a girl, it is better that she be stood up at a wedding, than to enter into a bad marriage.

-R-

Son ramas del mismo árbol.

-R-

It's part of the same thing, no difference. "Branches from the same tree."

El que da razón del camino es porque andado lo tiene.

Used despectively of persons who accuse others of certain misdeed which he himself must have experienced.

Donde no hay respeto no hay nada.

Respect is basic to all human interaction.

Que se te vuelva la risa llanto.

You will regret having laughed. "May your laughter turn to tears."

Vale mas rodear y no rodar.

Take the longer way, it will be better to go around than to fall.

"Haste makes waste."

-S-

El que tiene mas saliva, traga mas pinole.

He who is more clever, or quicker, will acquire more profits or greater advantages.

Sin salud todo sale sobrando.

Without health everything else is worthless.

Sangre de venado, todo lo que digas se irá por un lado.

Nothing that you say will affect me.

Señorita vieja, al infierno por pendeja.

A rhyme stating that old maids will go to hell for being

-S-

so stupid and not marrying.

Siempre corriendo y llegando tarde.

"Always rushing and still arriving late."

Es mejor solo que mal acompañado.

Better alone, than to be in bad company.

El sordo no oye pero compone.

A deaf person can't hear but he certainly can invent.

This is said of people who are big gossips. "He who wants to be deaf does not hear, but he sure can invent."

-T-

Tú que sabes tanto y entiendes poco.

You are one who knows so much and understands so little.

This is used to ridicule a person who thinks he knows everything.

Más vale tarde que nunca.

Better late than never.

Es más fresca la tarde que la mañana.

"The afternoons are cooler than the mornings."

Infers that persons get better with age.

[Vee es más sabrosa la pasa que la uva.]

¡Todavía ves la tempestad y no te hincas!

Even after you see how bad our situation is, you don't mend your ways.

Lo que al tiempo se deja, al tiempo se queda.

If you procrastinate you never will conclude your work.

El tiempo perdido hasta los santos lo lloran.

Shows the importance of time, and how lost time is a very common sin. Don't be idle! "Even the saints weep for the time they have lost."

El que siembra en tierra ajena, ni la semilla levanta.

"He who plants a seed in someone else's land will not even get his seed in return."

If you expect to find a reward when helping others, you may be surprised that they may not even remember it.

Todo tiene un hasta aquí.

Everything has a breaking point.

A todo le tira y a nada le da.

He tries everything but succeeds in nothing.

Cualquier tonto sabe ganar dinero, pero no cualquiera sabe gastarlo.

It is useless to earn lots of money if you do not know how to spend it wisely. "Anyone can make money but not everybody knows how to spend it."

Que te importa, come torta de la mazorca.

A rhyme stating "it's none of your business."

Busca trabajo, rogando no hallarlo.

He's lazy, looks for work hoping not to find any.

-U-

Cada quien que se rasque con sus propias uñas.

Every man to himself. "Let each one scratch himself with his own fingernails."

-V-

Tanto peca el que mata la vaca como el que le tiene la pata.

He who committed the deed is as guilty as he who helped him.

La verdad se dice una vez, la mentira es un encadenamiento de mentiras.

The truth is said once, a falsehood said becomes a chain of falsehoods.

La verdad no peca pero incomoda.

He who tells the truth may not hurt you, but he certainly makes you uncomfortable. "Truth does not sin but it sure makes people uncomfortable."

Más vale viejo (malo) por conocido que nuevo (bueno) por conocer.

Better is that which may be old (bad) but known than that which is new (good) but unknown.

El que se fué pa' la villa, perdió su silla, y el que se fué pa' Torreón, perdió su sillón.

You left your chair (or place), so you lost claim to it.

NOTES

PART I

SYNOPSIS

1. As defined by J. L. Dillard in Black English, Vantage Books, New York, 1972, p.x. "Dialect means simply the collective linguistic patterns of a sub-group of the speakers of a language."
2. The terms "Chicano" and "Mexican American" are used interchangeably throughout this publication.
3. Ernesto Gómez, "Towards A Chicano Perspective in Mental Health Services" Paper presented at the American Group Psychotherapy Association Conference, 1975, p. 8.
4. Guadalupe Gibson, Ernesto Gómez and Yolanda Santos, "Bilingual-Bicultural Service for the Barrio, "Social Welfare Forum, 1973, p. 216.
5. For the purpose of this document, "human service professions" is used to refer to all professional disciplines involved in working with people, i. e. teachers, social workers, lawyers, medical professions, etc.
6. Gómez, op. cit., p. 10.
7. Robert A. Hall, Jr., Linguistics and Your Language, (New York: Doubleday and Co., 1960, p. 13.
8. Ibid., p. 13.
9. Ibid., p. 24.

10. Patrick D. Hazard and Mary E. Hazard, Language and Literacy Today, Science Research Associates Inc., Chicago, 1965. p. 2.

11. Claus Mueller, The Politics of Communication, Oxford University Press, New York, 1973, p. 13.

12. Hazard, op. cit., p. 16.

13. Mueller, op. cit., p. 13.

14. Hazard, op. cit., p. 5.

15. Julius Laffal, Pathological and Normal Language, Atherton Press, New York, 1965, pp. 24, 25.

16. G. Granai, "Communication, Language et Societe", Cahiers Internationaux de Sociologie, Vol. 23, 1957, pp. 97 - 110.

17. Mueller, op. cit., p. 21.

18. Gibson, op. cit., pp. 215-216.

19. Ibid., p. 216.

20. Octavio I. Romano - V. ed., El Espejo, the Mirror: Selected Mexican-American Literature, Quinto Sol Publications, Berkeley, California, 1969, p. 192.

21. Gibson, op. cit., p. 217.

22. Ibid., p. 218.

23. Gómez, op. cit., pp. 10-11.

24. Luis R. Marcos, M.D. et. al., "The Effect of Interview Language on the Evaluation of Psychopathology in Spanish American Patients", American Journal on Psychiatry 130:5, May, 1973, pp. 549-553.

25. Gibson, op. cit., p. 218.

26. Martha Sotomayor and Philip Ortego, "Chicanos and Concepts of Language," California: Marfel Associates, 1974, p. 6.

27. Gómez, op. cit., p. 13.

28. Elizabeth G. Meir, "Social and Cultural Factors in Casework Diagnosis," Social Work, Vol. 5, No. 3. July, 1959, p. 14.

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